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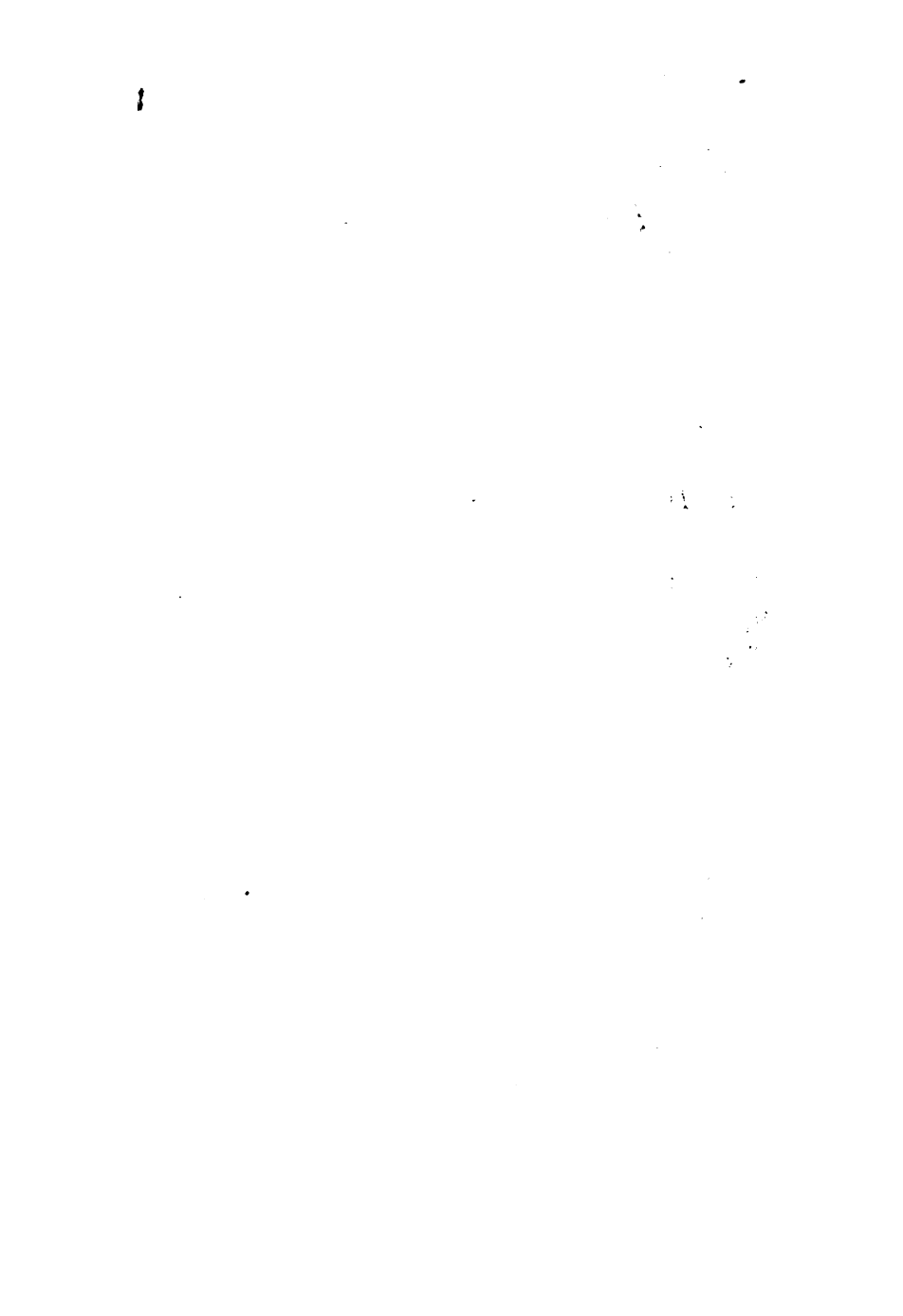
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A. H. Christie.

MCV
Haywood





THE

Invifible Spy.

BY

EXPLORALIBUS, pseud.

(*Mrs Haywood*)

VOL. IV.



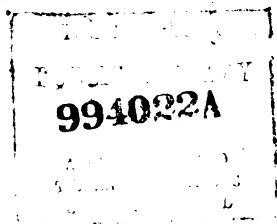
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THE
Invisible Spy.

VOL. IV.

BOOK VII.

CHAP. I.

The Author, contrary to his expectation, finds himself under a necessity of making an introductory Preface to this Volume, and at the same time presents the Reader with two letters of a pretty extraordinary nature.



Have made it my observation, before I had the least thoughts of becoming an Author, that there are two sorts of Readers who particularly distinguish themselves from all the rest, yet, though di-

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B

rect

rect opposites in humour, concur in one point, — that of being eager to see every new book that comes out, and impatient till they get to the conclusion of it ; — the one of these affects to be above being pleas'd with any thing he meets with, especially if it exceeds the bulk of a twelve-penny pamphlet, condemning all beyond as tedious, tiresome, and insipid ; — the other with alacrity pursues through every page the catastrophe of the longest work, delighting himself with the expectation of finding something to entertain him.

Methinks I hear, on the publication of these volumes, some one of the former class, with brow contracted and malignant sneer, like Milton's fallen Angel, mutter between his teeth, — ' What does the fellow mean by encumbering us with all this trash ? — Who does he think will be at the pains to trudge through such a heap of rubbish ? ' — While those of the other cheerfully cry out at the beginning of every chapter, — ' I wonder what mr. Invisible has now to present us with ! '

But as I had no design or inclination to offend the one, by spinning out these lucubrations by any superfluous interlocutions ; so I will not so far dissemble, as to compliment

pliment the other with saying, that merely to oblige them I extended the work to the length it is; — much less will I go about to defend myself by the example of a certain modern writer, who has found out the method of wiredrawing whatever matter he takes in hand to such an enormous length, that the eye of remembrance loses all sight of the beginning before it has half reach'd the end.

No, I will be ingenuous, — and confess the truth, — I was mistaken in my calculation; nor 'till the transcripts I had drawn from my Tablets were copied over fair for the press, could have imagin'd they would have employ'd so much paper and time as they in effect have done; and as I propos'd from the beginning not to conceal from the public any part of the discoveries I had made, I persisted in that resolution, without any regard to the number of volumes they might fill up.

This also has been the occasion, that a work which I intended should have made its appearance the latter end of last winter is postpon'd 'till now; which, as an Author, I cannot help looking upon as a double misfortune, for two very good reasons: — in the first place, the facts contain'd in it will be found of a less

recent date ; and in the next, by being so long in hand some particular passages in it have taken wind, and by that means those who imagine themselves concerned in them are prepar'd to bring the whole performance into contempt.

That this is no idle surmise of my own I am very well convinced, and so may every one else who reads the letters inserted in the introduction to the Second Volume, as well as by two others which have been since left for me at the Printing-Office, and which I shall now take the liberty of presenting to the public;—the first is from a lady, and contains the following lines :

To the gentleman, or whatever he is,
who calls himself the INVISIBLE SPY.

“ Mr, INVISIBLE,

“ I Am told you are going to publish
“ a kind of scandalous Chronicle of
“ what you, in your great wisdom, may
“ look upon as the foibles of people in
“ genteel life ; and that neither birth,
“ beauty, wealth, nor power, are a sufficient
“ defence against so universal a
“ satyrift. — But pray who set you up
“ for a censor of your neighbours actions?
“ — By what rule do you pretend to
“ judge

The Invisible SPY.

5

“ judge what is deserving reproof, and
“ what is not so? — Wit is the worst
“ authority you can have, — no body
“ now adays pays the least regard to it;
“ — we women like the man who dresses
“ well, can sing a soft Italian air, dance
“ a French Louvre, is complaisant enough
“ to squire us to all public places, and let
“ us win his money at cards. — Those of
“ your own sex also think as little of
“ wit as we do, — they know it is no
“ qualification by which they can expect
“ to succeed either in love or preferment;
“ and therefore, you may be sure, de-
“ spise in another what they are not
“ possess’d of themselves.

“ But I also hear that you declare your-
“ self an enemy to Gaming in particular;
“ — and if so, you infallibly ruin your-
“ self with the whole town. — How dull,
“ how sluggishly would life glide on if it
“ were not for that dear diversion? —
“ Dressing and Eating take up but a small
“ part of the day, and Plays and Operas
“ of the evening. — What must become
“ of all our vacant hours? — we should
“ die by dozens of the spleen and va-
“ pours for want of employment, if Ga-
“ ming did not rouse our faculties, keep
“ the passions in a continual flow, and
“ the animal spirits from being sub-

“ jected to the odious power of sleep and
 “ sloth.

“ If therefore you have presumed to
 “ say any thing in opposition to this fa-
 “ vourite amusement, erase the invective
 “ page, or depend upon it your perfor-
 “ mance will be cry’d down at every
 “ polite table, not only in town but
 “ throughout all England. — I would
 “ have you know this advice is given by
 “ one who has it in her power to be
 “ either a very serviceable friend or a
 “ most formidable and bitter enemy ; —
 “ it is in your own choice which of these
 “ two you will make of

“ Yours, &c.

“ OLIMPIA.”

The other letter is from a member of
 the last ever memorable parliament, and
 was sent a few weeks before the writs
 were issued out for calling a new one. —
 These are the contents :

To the Author of the INVISIBLE SPY.

“ S I R,

“ **Y**OU cannot but know that a Spy,
 “ as soon as detected to be such, is
 “ condemn’d by the law of all nations
 “ to

“ to be carry’d to the first tree and
“ hang’d up immediately. — What then,
“ in the name of common sense, can
“ have induced you to assume a character
“ so obnoxious to mankind, and so dan-
“ gerous to yourself? — Do you ima-
“ gine that the natural love people have
“ for intelligence will save you? — no, —
“ if you offend all, you must expect that
“ all will be against you; — but I am
“ charitable enough to hope otherwise,
“ and would fain think you concern
“ yourself only with matters relating to
“ the tea-table and toylet of the ladies,
“ and are more discreet than to meddle
“ with things which ought not to come
“ too much into the heads of the po-
“ pulace.

“ You understand me, I suppose; —
“ but lest you should not, I will tell you
“ that I should be sorry to find you a
“ dabbler in politics, especially at this
“ critical juncture, when the Parliament
“ is so near being dissolved and a new
“ Election coming on.

“ I have the honour to be a member
“ of the lower house, and am very sen-
“ sible that some motions have been made
“ there, which at the time were highly
“ displeasing to the mob; but as most

“ of them seem to be now forgot, and
“ others die away apace, I would not
“ have you scratch an old fore and revive
“ the memory of them.

“ The Naturalization Bill most of all
“ sticks in the stomachs of the vulgar ;
“ — but as I take you for a gentleman
“ and a man of sense, I will reason with
“ you a little upon that affair, and doubt
“ not but to convince you that there
“ never was a Bill better calculated for
“ the true interest of the country, and to
“ make us a great and formidable people.

“ I shall not need to tire your patience
“ with saying much on the occasion, —
“ the whole sum of this argument, con-
“ clusive as it is, may be drawn up in a
“ very narrow compass, — as thus :

“ Are we not told, in that book
“ which is the rule of our salvation, that
“ we ought to do all the good we can ?
“ — Is there any thing more pleasing in
“ the sight of God and the world than
“ acts of hospitality, benevolence and
“ charity ? — And can we give a greater
“ proof how much we are endow'd
“ with those noble virtues, than by re-
“ ceiving distress'd strangers into the bo-
“ som of our community, and making
“ them

“ them partakers of the same rights and
“ privileges that we ourselves enjoy ? —
“ This consideration alone would be suf-
“ ficient to make me, as a good Chri-
“ stian, a zealous advocate for a General
“ Naturalization, without any limitation
“ or exception, whether in regard of
“ Turks, Pagans, Jews, or Atheists.

“ There are also two other motives
“ which, in my opinion, should make
“ every good commonwealth’s man and
“ good subject wish that this bill might
“ be pass’d into a law, — as I shall pre-
“ sently make appear.

“ First, It must be allow’d that the
“ people of England are, of latter years,
“ extremely indolent ; — that the meaner
“ sort of them are lazy, proud, and
“ luxurious, to an excess, chusing rather
“ to steal or beg, than work for mode-
“ rate wages ; — whereas on the con-
“ trary, those who it may be suppos’d
“ will come over to take the benefit of
“ such an act are robust in body and
“ humble in mind, — inur’d from their
“ very infancy to want and toil, and ac-
“ custom’d to hardships, will certainly be
“ glad to sell their labour at a much
“ cheaper rate : — their women may also
“ be an example to ours, and make them

“ less delicate and more obedient ; —
“ and how great a blessing such a reformation would be, as the sex at present
“ conduct themselves, I appeal to all
“ fathers, husbands, and masters of families.

“ Secondly, We want men, — we may
“ want soldiers too, — things least expected often happen ; we cannot assure
“ ourselves that the young Pretender may
“ not quit his lurking holes, and once
“ more attempt to disturb us ; but if all
“ apprehensions on his score were without
“ foundation, and that as the greatest part
“ of his adherents are destroy’d either by
“ the sword or the halter, all his hopes
“ and endeavours were buried with them ;
“ — nay, were the small remains of
“ that family extinct, yet still there
“ never would be wanting a Pretender to
“ the Throne of these Kingdoms ; — we
“ all know the late King of Sardinia, as
“ next of blood, enter’d his claim in a
“ Protest against the Settlement of the
“ House of Hanover, and we have no
“ room to think his son would be more
“ passive, if such an opportunity should
“ arrive ; — never can we flatter ourselves
“ with being absolutely secure that no
“ other dangers may threaten us from a
“ different quarter.

“ All

“ All these things consider’d, I think
“ it very evident, and you cannot but
“ acknowledge that a General Naturali-
“ zation would not only be greatly for
“ our honour and convenience, but is
“ also necessary for our safety.

“ However, as I have before observ’d,
“ the lower class of people having taken
“ it into their heads to imagine that this
“ bill, and several others, were so many
“ attempts to encroach on what they
“ look upon as their undoubted rights
“ and privileges, I should be glad that
“ no mention was made concerning any
“ part of the business transacted in this
“ Parliament; because I am pretty sen-
“ sible that there are some rustical clod-
“ pated fellows who are capable, on the
“ least encouragement from the press,
“ to insult and throw dirt in our faces,
“ instead of giving us their votes.

“ I should have accompany’d this re-
“ quest with a small present, but really,
“ as things stand, I find all the ready
“ money I can raise will be little enough
“ to stem the torrent of popular resent-
“ ment; but if you think fit to comply,
“ I shall take an opportunity hereafter

“ to testify my gratitude, and be ready
“ to prove myself,

“ On all occasions,

“ S I R,

“ Your much obliged

“ Humble servant,

“ PHILOTEMPO.”

The letter of Philotempo had not been inserted without a reply to it, if these Volumes had been publish'd at the time I first intended; but as the Election will be over long before they can possibly make their appearance, and it is likely he may be rechosen, what I would then have said would now, for many reasons, be highly improper.

I must therefore submit to whatever censures either he or any other person shall think fit to pass upon me, — well knowing that to those who are resolved to be offended, all apologies would be in vain, and to those who read with a desire of being pleased, equally unnecessary.

Some, whose impatient thirst for intelligence is not easily satisfied, may perhaps

haps think that in an age so gay, so luxurious as the present, when every day, nay every hour, teems with some fresh adventure, and affords matter for conversation, I might have made a more extensive use of my gift of Invisibilty, and that not four, but fourteen Volumes might have been well enough employ'd in the rehearsal of what I had seen and heard; — but those, if any such there are, will find in the close of this work, that if I have omitted many things which doubtless have happen'd worthy remark, it has not been owing to any remissness in me, or a weariness of prosecuting my enquiries, but to an unlucky accident which stopp'd me in my full career, and cut off all farther opportunities of obliging either them or myself.

As this is the last address I shall make to the public, at least while I continue to wear my Belt of Invisibilty, I think myself obliged, in good manners, to take my leave, not only of the courteous but also uncourteous reader, — which I now do, — heartily wishing that the one may find in this performance every thing capable of entertaining him, and that the other may be preserved from falling into the spleen or hypochondriac, by discharging on me all the ill-nature he is possess'd of.

CHAP.

C H A P. II.

The Author flatters himself will be no unacceptable present to all those of the fair sex, who are either truly innocent, or would preserve the reputation of being so.

WHEN a young woman, of what rank or degree soever, indulges herself in a too great freedom of conversation with one of a loose and wanton behaviour, she cannot wonder that those who are witnesses of their intimacy should suspect her guilty of the same inclinations; — and that tho' perfectly innocent of the faults of her companion, is made an equal partaker of her shame.

Women, who are either born to, or are reduced by accidents to low and indigent circumstances, excuse themselves by saying, — that the necessity of their affairs compels them to keep an acquaintance with persons who they find it their interest to oblige; — but if this be an insufficient pretence, as certainly it is, since there is no interest which ought to be put in competition with reputation, what can
be

be allieg'd in behalf of ladies of fortune and quality, who have it in their power to chuse their company; and it cannot be supposed would converse with any whose manners they did not approve?

In fine, there is no one error in conduct which, according to my opinion, the sex in general should be more upon their guard against than this; — for tho' some, dazzled with the pomp of show and equipage, may be weak enough to imagine, that to appear in public, or be known to have an intimacy with a woman of a polluted fame, provided she be a person of condition, will bring no blemish on their own characters, or be of any prejudice to their morals, yet that such an intimacy is extremely dangerous to both may be very easily demonstrated.

First, as to character; — If the world should be more silent than it ever was, or ever will be on such occasions, it cannot be expected that a woman, who has thrown off all regard for her own honour, should have any for that of the person she converses with, or would even wish they should be thought possess'd of a virtue she is entirely destitute of herself; — no, — on the contrary, she will rather have recourse to all the wicked artifices she may

may be mistress of to cast a shade over that brightness which would render her own deformity more conspicuous.

But this is not the worst danger to which an innocent person is exposed by keeping company with a bad woman ; — we are told, from an unquestionable authority, that it is hard to touch pitch without being defiled ; — and certainly there is nothing more evident, than that vice naturally loses great part of its horrors by becoming familiar to the sight : — the chaste heart, which shudders at the bare repetition of indecent actions, by accustoming itself to be witness of them, ceases first to wonder, and by degrees to detest them ; — and though I will not be so uncharitable as to say, that the mind is always corrupted by such a communication, yet I will venture to affirm, that the manners will be so.

I know very well, that the timid modesty I would fain recommend, as the surest guardian of a Virgin's honour, has for many years been exploded ; and that since some foreign customs have unhappily been introduced among us, to be capable of blushing is look'd upon by those who pass for models of politeness, as an indication of the want both of wit and good breeding.

This.

This audacity of behaviour being so much the mode, it is not a little difficult to distinguish between those who really pursue the dictates of a licentious inclination, and those who put on a shew of it merely to comply with the example of others; and a person who judges of a woman by what he sees of her in public, runs a very great risque of being mistaken.

Often has my opinion been led astray in this point, even in regard of ladies with whom I was most intimately acquainted, and saw every day; nor did I ever dare to give a character of any one of them 'till my Belt of Invisibilty afforded me an opportunity of prying in the secrets of the alcove.

Corisca and Emilia are two celebrated beauties, — they are almost equally follow'd and admir'd by the men; but neither of them were ever jealous or envious of the praises given to the other, and there was once so excessive a fondness between them that they were scarce ever seen asunder: — Corisca has been married some years, — Emilia has not yet been prevail'd upon to part with her liberty; but tho' there is this difference in their circumstances, there has been too much appearance

appearance, upon exact similitude, in their humours and constitutions ; — I say in appearance ; for I have since discover'd that light and darkness are not, in fact, more widely distant.

Corisea, long before she became a wife, was look'd upon as what they call a female rake ; — some there were, however, who imputed what she did only to the too great vivacity of her humour, and would not believe her guilty of any real crime ; but far the greater number were of a quite different opinion ; and, indeed, the little regard she takes of her family since her marriage, — the public contempt with which she treats her husband, and the frequent quarrels she has with him in private, but too much justify the worst character can be given either of her œconomy or her chastity.

Yet notwithstanding all this, there is a certain something in her air, her wit, and her manner of behaviour so engaging to both sexes, that she has always been, and still continues to be, constantly visited by persons not only of the best fortunes, but of the best reputations also, who chuse rather to seem blind to her faults than deny themselves the pleasure of her conversation.

It.

It is, beyond all dispute, a very great pity that a woman so plenteously endow'd by nature with every qualification to shew virtue in its most amiable colours, should, through a strange depravity of principles and inclination, make use of all the fine talents she is mistress of only to varnish over the foul face of vice, and endeavouring to give a pleasing aspect to the deformity of sin and shame.

The beautiful person of Emilia, — her sprightly wit, — her good humour and affability, render'd her the darling of all who knew her; — they beheld with an infinity of concern her intimacy with Corisca, and those, who either by proximity of blood, or a long acquaintance with her, thought themselves privileged to offer their advice, did it in the strongest terms, and spared no remonstrances that might prevail on her to break off so dangerous a communication; — but she was deaf to all could be said to her on this subject: — it was her misfortune to become the mistress of her own actions at too early an age; — what fortune she was possess'd of was in her own hands, and as she was entirely independent on her friends, would not submit to be directed by them.

Ina

In justice to this young lady's character, however, I must say, and shall hereafter prove, that there is a fund of honour and virtue in her soul sufficient to have made her look down with contempt and detestation on the conduct of Corisca, and to have oblig'd her, if not to break off all conversation with her, at least not to appear with her in public, or make one in any party of pleasure where she was engaged.

But, alas! the seeds of those noble principles for a time lay dormant in her, choak'd up with the natural levities of youth, and the modish excesses of the age, they had not power to shoot forth into action: — innocently wanton, and indolently gay, she saw not the danger to which she exposed her person and reputation, because she thought not of it, nor gave herself the pains to examine what snares might possibly be spread for her; — but suffering herself to be continually hurried from one amusement to another, never consider'd or reflected on any thing farther than the present satisfaction.

I have been thus particular in describing the character and humour of Emilia, because in the course of my rambles I have found

found too many others of the same giddy bent, who, without the least propensity to ill, have heedlessly run into actions which have involved their whole future lives in dishonour; — these, have reason to pardon this digression, especially as it has not been tedious, and I shall now return to the adventure which occasion'd it.

Among the many Invisible Visits, which for a considerable time together I had made to the apartment of this celebrated Corisca, I happen'd to be there one morning when Favonius and Palamede were with her; — the first of these gentlemen is of a very amorous inclination, and known to be what the world calls well with her; — the other, though gay and lively as Mercury himself, has been restrain'd either through want of inclination to her person, or his friendship to Favonius, from attempting to take any private liberties, and seldom visits her but in his company.

The discourse they were engaged in, when I first broke in upon them, I found was on subjects of too trifling a nature for me to spread my Tablets for the reception, so I shall make no repetition of any things were said 'till the entrance of Emilia, who came in soon after.

First

The first salutations were no sooner over, than Corisca taking her fondly by the hand spoke thus :

Corisca. ‘ Dear creature, this is an excess of goodness in you to come thus early, — I did not expect you ’till dinner time.’

Emilia. ‘ Indeed, my dear, I never waited on you with so ill a will, nor came on an errand so disagreeable to my inclination ; for I have but just time to tell you, that I am deprived of the pleasure I proposed to myself of passing the whole day with you.’

Corisca. ‘ On what occasion !’

Emilia. ‘ The most unlucky one that could have happen’d ; — an old aunt of mine has taken it into her head to quit her Rookery and Hen-house in the country, and come to stare and be stared at in town ; — she arriv’d last night, and sent me word that she must needs see me this morning ; — decency obliges me to go, — she is my god-mother, and besides is pretty rich.

Corisca.

Corisca. ‘ But cannot you make some
‘ excuse to leave her as soon as you have
‘ paid your compliments? — I shall have
‘ all the world here this afternoon, and
‘ would not have you absent upon any
‘ score.

Emilia. ‘ It cannot be avoided, — she
‘ pretends to have a huge fondness for
‘ me, and I know will detain me, with a
‘ thousand impertinent declarations of it,
‘ ’till bed time; — so, my dear, adieu for
‘ this whole tedious day; — to-morrow, I
‘ hope, will atone for this vexation. —
‘ Gentlemen, your servant.’

In speaking these last words she turn’d
upon her heel and ran out of the room;
but not so hastily but that Palamede,
with one stride, join’d her at the door
and led her down stairs; — in the mean
time Corisca, looking on Favonius, said
to him:

Corisca. ‘ I pity poor Emilia; — the
‘ impertinent fondness of an old relation
‘ is almost as great a mortification as the
‘ sawcy indifference of a young fellow
‘ that one likes.’

Favonius.

Favonius. ‘ The beautiful Corisca, I
‘ am sure, can never be in danger of ex-
‘ periening the latter of these vexations.’

To prove the sincerity of this assevera-
tion he closed it with a strenuous em-
brace, which Corisca return’d ; — there
was time for no more, — Palamede came
back, and Favonius, with a smile, spoke
in this manner :

Favonius. ‘ By the sparkle in your
‘ eyes, Palamede, I should imagine the
‘ piece of gallantry you have shew’d to
‘ Emilia has been more than ordinarily
‘ well received.’

Palamede. ‘ This and all others I
‘ have yet had in my power to treat that
‘ lady with have been too trifling to de-
‘ serve much notice from her.’

Favonius. ‘ Oh, — every kind glance
‘ gives transport to a man in love ; —
‘ — you must know, madam, I have just
‘ found out that Palamede is most despe-
‘ rately in love with Emilia.

Corisca. ‘ Indeed ! — and do you al-
‘ low the charge, Palamede ?’

Palamede.

Palamede. ‘ Not altogether, madam ;
‘ — I am not absolutely in love, but con-
‘ fess I think Emilia an extreme fine girl,
‘ and have had some very luscious dreams
‘ on her account.’

Corisca. ‘ What hinders you then from
‘ making your addresses to her ?’

Palamede. ‘ Why faith, madam, — to
‘ confess the truth, I was afraid of not
‘ succeeding on the terms I wish’d to do ;
‘ and as for marriage, the circumstances
‘ of my estate require I should make
‘ choice of a wife with a much larger for-
‘ tune than Emilia is possess’d of.’

Favonius. ‘ You are perfectly in the
‘ right, Palamede ; — a good fortune
‘ with a wife is absolutely necessary for a
‘ man of pleasure, as it enables him to
‘ make handsome presents and entertain-
‘ ments to those women he may happen
‘ to like better.’

Corisca. ‘ So, Palamede, you durst
‘ not ask Emilia the question, for fear of
‘ meeting a rebuff from her over-scrupu-
‘ lous virtue.’

Palamede. ‘ That is indeed the case,
‘ madam.’

Corisca. ‘ Then you are a fool : —
‘ not but I believe Emilia is perfectly in-
‘ nocent as yet ; — but what is innocence,
‘ what is virtue, what is honour, when
‘ oppos’d to love and inclination ! — Do
‘ you not know what mrs. Behn, who
‘ must be allow’d to be a perfect judge
‘ of nature in our sex, says upon this
‘ occasion ?

Oh cursed honour, thou who first did’st
damn

A woman to the sin of shame !

Honour, who taught lovely eyes the art,
To wound, and not to cure the heart ;
With love t’invite, but to forbid with awe,
And to themselves prescribe a cruel law.
His chief attributes are pride and spight,
His pow’r is robbing lovers of delight.
Honour, that puts our words, that should
be free,

Into a set formality !

Thou base debaucher of the gen’rous
heart,

That teachest all our looks and actions art.

What love design’d a sacred gift,

What nature made to be possess’d,

Mistaken honour made a theft.

Thou

Thou foe to pleasure, nature's worst disease!
Thou tyrant over mighty kings,
Be gone to princes palaces,
But let the humble swain go on,
In the blest paths of the first race of man,
That nearest were to Gods allied,
And, form'd for love, disdain'd all other
pride.

The emphatic accents and graceful manner with which Corisca pronounced these lines, adding to the beauty of the poetry, struck so much upon the hearts of the two gentlemen, that they could not forbear clapping their hands, and crying out several times, 'Encore, — Encore, ' charming Corisca.' — On which she laugh'd heartily, and reply'd,

Corisca. ' I want none of these theatrical testimonies of approbation; — I ' would only convince Palamede, from the ' unquestionable authority of our English ' Sappho, that when a woman loves, no ' considerations are of force to restrain ' her from acting up to the dictates of ' her passion.'

Palamede. ' Ay, madam, if I could ' flatter myself with the hopes of being ' lov'd by Emilia, I should have nothing ' to apprehend.'

Corisca. ‘ I will not pretend to tell
‘ you that she is so much in love as not
‘ to be able to eat, drink, or sleep for
‘ the thoughts of you ; but I have heard
‘ her say a thousand times over, I be-
‘ lieve, that you are, without exception,
‘ the prettiest fellow in the whole town,
‘ — that you dress the best, — and have
‘ something peculiarly agreeable in your
‘ air and manner of behaviour ; — and
‘ on the strength of this, and some other
‘ indications I have observed about her,
‘ I dare venture to affirm that you are
‘ far from being indifferent to her, and
‘ that she would be little less pleas’d than
‘ yourself with an opportunity of being
‘ entertain’d by you in private.’

Palamede. ‘ Dear madam, you make
‘ me the most transported man alive. —
‘ But by what means can such a thing be
‘ brought about ? — some scheme must
‘ be laid for that purpose.

Corisca. ‘ Nothing more easy ; — I
‘ have it all in my head already ; — she
‘ will go any where with me ; — we shall
‘ be together to-morrow ; — you two
‘ shall come in as if by accident, and
‘ propose going to take the air on the
‘ other side of the water ; — there is a
‘ house

‘house the most commodiously situated;
‘that can be; — good gardens, good
‘wine, good beds, good every thing: —
‘Favonius is well acquainted with the
‘place.’

Favonius. ‘I suppose you mean that
‘kept by mrs. *****.’

Corisca. ‘The same. — When we
‘have been there some time, and it be-
‘gins to draw near the hour proper to
‘think of going home, you shall dis-
‘charge the coach, and pretend the fel-
‘low got drunk and went away without
‘your knowledge; — there will be no
‘possibility of procuring a vehicle to
‘bring us to town, especially at night;
‘— Favonius must be content to do pe-
‘nance with me in loitering about the
‘gardens, or in something or other, ’till
‘morning, while you make the most of
‘your time with Emilia.’

Palamede. ‘Excellent, — my charm-
‘ing Machiavel! — But how shall we
‘prevail on Emilia to be separated from
‘her dear Corisca?’

Corisca. ‘Leave that to my manage-
‘ment; — she shall suspect nothing of
‘the matter ’till she finds herself alone

‘ with you, — and then it will be your
 ‘ business to make her satisfied with be-
 ‘ ing so.’

Palamede. ‘ Kind creature, — where
 ‘ shall I find words to thank this com-
 ‘ passion to a suffering lover ?’

Corisca. ‘ Never trouble yourself about
 ‘ thanks, — good actions, they say, re-
 ‘ ward themselves.’

Favonius. ‘ As for my part, I shall
 defer those acknowledgments which
 your excess of goodness demands from
 me, both on my own score and that of
 my friend, ’till to-morrow night, when
 ‘ they shall make part of that agreeable
 ‘ penance I am to perform.’

This speech of Favonius paved the way
 for a conversation conformable enough to
 the characters of the persons engag’d in
 it ; but I am certain would not be well
 relish’d by that part of my readers which
 I am most ambitious of obliging ; — I
 shall therefore close the scene, as indeed
 I did soon after my Tablets, and quitted
 the apartments of this fair libertine, in
 order to retire to my own, and contemplate
 at leisure on what I had seen and heard.

C H A P. III.

Presents the reader with the catastrophe of an adventure very different from what the beginning may have given him reason to expect.

THO' I had thought myself too well acquainted with the principles and inclinations of Corisca, to be at all surpris'd at any act of licentiousness she could possibly be guilty of, yet I could not defend my senses from being seiz'd with the extremest shock, on finding she could be base enough to condescend to become the instrument of others pleasures, and betray the innocence of a young lady for whom she had as much friendship as is consistent with a woman of her character,—forgetting all this while what the good old poet, Mr. Philip Massenger, tells us on an occasion similar to this of Corisca and Emilia.

‘Virtue and Vice in one sole point agree,
‘Each would be glad all like themselves
‘might be.’

In ruminating very wisely, as I then imagin'd, on what Corisca had said to Palamede, I must confess I entertain'd suspicions not at all to the advantage of poor Emilia; — I fancied that she had in reality confess'd a passion for that gentleman, and Corisca, in forming this contrivance to bring about a private interview between them, had done nothing, but what she was convinced in her own mind would be highly satisfactory to her fair friend.

It was never my custom, however, to place an entire dependance on conjecture, whether of my own or that of another person, so resolved to be as convinced as my Invisible inspection could make me.

Accordingly the next day in the afternoon I girded on my precious Belt and went to the house of Corisca; — Emilia was not yet come, but just as I arriv'd I heard her give orders to refuse admittance to all of her own sex except that lady, and also to all those of the other except Favonius and Palamede.

As I doubted not but I should be able to fathom the whole truth of this affair, by the conversation that would pass between

tween these two ladies while they believed themselves alone together, I was extremely impatient for the approach of Emilia, and equally rejoiced when I saw her enter.

The first salutations they gave each other were such as might be expected from persons who mutually profess'd so warm and tender a friendship ; — the subjects they afterwards talk'd upon were not of any consequence ; — not one word of Palamede nor the projected tour was mentioned, — on which I absolved Emilia from all blame on this account, and was sorry I had ever wrong'd her.

But the less room I had to condemn, the greater cause I had to pity her, and to detest the cruel plot contrived, and so near being put in execution against her virtue ; but I had no time to indulge meditation, — the gentlemen presently came in, — the proposal, as agreed upon between them and Corisca, was immediately made, — the ladies gave a ready assent, — a hackney-coach was order'd to be call'd to the door, and every one seem'd equally on the wing to be gone.

The reader will now perhaps imagine, that it being easy to see into the end of this affair, there was no occasion for any
C 5 . farther

farther enquiries in relation to it, and that curiosity had received its utmost gratification; — but I happen'd to be of a different way of thinking, — I sincerely pitied Emilia, and could not help being desirous to see how she would resent the base artifice practis'd on her when she should discover it, and also how Corisca would conduct the plot she had contrived.

It was no difficult matter for me to know the house they were going to, both by the description I had heard given of it the day before by Corisca, but also by what I had been told by other people concerning its commodiousness for intrigue, so I no sooner found a hackney-coach was order'd, than I hastily quitted the post I was in, — made the best of my way to the place of rendezvous, — got there before them, — took up my stand at the entrance, — saw them alight, and follow'd them into a well-furnish'd spacious room, to which they were usher'd by a spruce waiter.

Wine and biscuits were immediately served up, and the company, after having refresh'd themselves with this little regale, went to walk in the gardens, which I found indeed very pleasant, — well laid out into parterres and knots, and larger than

than I could have imagined ; — Favonius led Corisca, and Palamede had Emilia by the hand, who, during this promenade, took the opportunity of entertaining her with many tender speeches, but intermix'd with nothing that the most chaste ear might not have listen'd to without calling a blush upon the face.

I was sorry, however, to observe that she receiv'd what he said with a certain languishment in her eyes which embolden'd him to go on, and made me fear that he had indeed a secret ascendancy over her uncautious, unsuspecting heart.

On their return into the house a table was spread with every thing that could excite the appetite or exhilarate the spirits ; — the cheerfulness and good humour of the guests gave a double relish to the repast, — wit and sparkling champaign crown'd the board ; and tho' the ladies allay'd the too great potency of the one by the assistance of water, yet the other flow'd with no less strength and vigour.

After some hours had been pass'd in the height of gaiety, Corisca on a sudden look'd upon her watch, and assuming a more serious air than she was accusom'd to wear, told the company that it was

near one o'clock, and they must think of departing for London; — to which Favonius reply'd,

Favonius. ' Among all the ridiculous
' things mankind was ever guilty of, I
' know none more so than the having set
' their wits to work to invent a machine,
' and then submitting to be govern'd
' by it.'

Corisca. ' There are many other laws,
' as well as this, by which the silly
' world have bound themselves to go
' contrary to the primitive rules of na-
' ture and inclination, — indulging by
' stealth only those pleasures which they
' were born freely to enjoy; but, how-
' ever, all these customs, disagreeable as
' they are to people of real wit and spirit,
' must in some measure be comply'd
' with, or the stupid vulgar would pre-
' sently accuse us of irregularity and in-
' decency.'

Palamede. ' I look upon every one
' here, madam, to be above the censures
' of the vulgar, yet I will not pretend to
' enter into any arguments on that head;
' and dare answer for Favonius, as well as
' for myself, that he would not presume
' to

“to detain you a moment beyond the
“time you think proper to go.”

Emilia. “Indeed, gentlemen, I think,
“and I believe Corisca does so too, that
“to stay any longer at this time would
“rather diminish than add to the satisfac-
“tion we have hitherto enjoy’d.”

Favonius. “After such a declaration,
“madam, any farther pressures to the
“contrary on our part, might justly be
“look’d upon as impertinent and trouble-
“some: — it is certainly your province
“to command,—ours implicitly to obey.”

In speaking these last words, he went
out of the room with Palamede, as it
might be supposed to discharge the
reckoning of the house; but in a few mi-
nutes return’d, and with a seeming con-
cern in their faces said, — that the coach-
man, either by having got drunk or
mistaking his orders, had gone away soon
after he had set them down; — on which
Corisca affected to be extremely surpris’d,
and Emilia being really so, they both
cry’d out at the same time,

Corisca. “This is the oddest accident
“that ever happen’d.”

Emilia.

Emilia. ‘ Bless me ! — which way
‘ shall we get home !’

Palamede. ‘ As for going home, ma-
‘ dam, it is a thing quite out of the
‘ question ; — we have enquir’d, and
‘ there is no possibility of procuring
‘ either coach, chariot, post-chaise, or
‘ any sort of carriage whatever, ’till the
‘ morning breaks ; — so, ladies, you must
‘ content yourselves with being our guests
‘ for the remainder of the night.’

Corisca. ‘ Well, since it is so we must
‘ e’en make a virtue of necessity, and
‘ divert ourselves as well as we can.’

Palamede. ‘ It would be an unpardon-
‘ able vanity in us, madam, to imagine
‘ that any thing in our conversation could
‘ compensate for the want of your repose ;
‘ — we will therefore order a bed to be
‘ got ready for you two ladies, while Fa-
‘ vonius and myself watch the approach
‘ of day, in order to provide a vehicle
‘ for carrying us to town.’

Corisca. ‘ No, no, — by no means,
‘ — we will all share the same fate ; it
‘ would be strange indeed, if four people
‘ of taste and spirit could not find some
‘ way.

“ way to amuse each other for the space
“ of one night.”

While she was speaking a Concert of Flutes, a Hautboy, a Double-Curtal, and some other wind music, on a sudden saluted their ears,— on which she cry’d out,

Corisca. ‘ Hark ! — music ! — if it.
‘ continues it will very well atone for the
‘ loss of a few hours sleep.’

Emilia. ‘ Nothing ever happen’d so
‘ fortunately for me ; — I love music as
‘ I love my life, especially of this sort.’

In speaking this she ran hastily to the window and threw up the sash, in order to hear the several instruments more distinctly ; — Palamede follow’d, and they both seem’d absorb’d in a most profound attention for some minutes, which Favonius and Corisca observing, took that opportunity of passing softly behind them and slipp’d out of the room.

Emilia turning her head presently after, with a design, as I suppose, to say something either to the one or the other, was surpris’d at seeing neither of them there, and cry’d out to Palamede,

Emilia.

Emilia. ‘ Bless me! — what is become of Favonius and Corisca!’

Palamede. ‘ I know not, madam; — perhaps they are gone down into the garden, to be nearer to the music, which seems to proceed from the lower end of the walk.’

Emilia. ‘ Very likely; — they might have told us, however; — but since it is so we will follow them.’

Palamede. ‘ With all my heart, madam; — but first permit me to reveal a secret to you which you ought to be told, and my breast has long labour’d with an impatience of discovering.’

Emilia. ‘ A secret! — What secret can you have with me that would be worth losing one note of this heavenly music to listen to!’

Palamede. ‘ I hope you will be of another opinion, madam, when I shall tell you that the whole happiness of my future life, and even my soul’s eternal peace, depends upon it.’

Emilia.

Emilia. ‘ You may tell me what you will, but I shall believe nothing of the matter ; — so let us rejoin our friends.’

It is not so much by what people say, as by the manner in which they deliver themselves, that the sincerity of their words may be guess’d at; and I was heartily glad to find, both by the looks of Emilia and the tone of her voice, that she indeed had more inclination to do as she had propos’d, than to stay and suffer herself to be entertain’d by Palamede in the way she might easily perceive he was about to do it.

The discreet intentions of this young lady, however, could avail her but little in her present situation ; — Palamede got between her and the door as she was endeavouring to go out, and throwing himself upon his knees before her, and at the same time catching fast hold of both her hands, said to her,

Palamede. ‘ No, charming Emilia, I have not so long languish’d for an opportunity like this to let it now escape me ! — you must, — you shall hear me. — By Heaven I love you ! — love you to the most raging height the passion

‘ sion can inspire ! — For many, many
 ‘ tedious weeks, you have been the only
 ‘ object of my nightly visions and waking
 ‘ thoughts, — and —.’

He was going on, but Emilia interrupted him by replying in these terms, accompanied with an air full of resentment and confusion.

Emilia. ‘ Fye, Palamede, this railery
 ‘ is impertinent and insipid, — and what
 ‘ I could not have expected to be treated
 ‘ with by a person who has the character
 ‘ of good sense and breeding.’

Palamede. ‘ Cruelly urged ; — oh
 ‘ could you see into my heart you would
 ‘ find it all devoted to you ! — devoted
 ‘ to you with a tenderness so perfect as
 ‘ can be equal’d by nothing but the
 ‘ charms that have subdued it. — Frown
 ‘ not, adorable Emilia, nor struggle to
 ‘ get loose ; for by all my hopes, never
 ‘ will I quit the grasp I have taken of
 ‘ you, nor rise from the posture I am
 ‘ in, ’till I have convinced you of the
 ‘ sincerity, as well as ardency, of the
 ‘ flame you have kindled in me.’

Emilia. ‘ Sir, this nocturnal declaration
 ‘ is little consistent with that respect
 ‘ which

‘ which is always the attendant of an honourable passion. — If you had, indeed, any thoughts of me of the nature you pretend, I am no recluse, and you might have found a more proper season to acquaint me with them.’

Palamede. ‘ The passion I am inflamed with, is not of a nature to submit to the dull forms observed by vulgar lovers. — Besides, what season can be more fit for love than night, the friend of love? — Turn your eyes towards the window and behold the silver moon, with all the thousand twinkling stars; see how sweet, how mild they shine, with what benevolent aspects they dart their rays upon us; — listen to the melodious sounds you just now prais’d; — will not all these soften your soul, — melt you into pity, and make you think such love as mine deserves some recompence!’

Emilia. ‘ I’ll hear no more; — unhand me, sir, and give me liberty to seek our friends; — or be assured my cries shall raise the house.’

He then let go her hands and rose from the posture he had been in; but still kept his back close against the door, while
with

with a half smile, he reply'd to what she had said in this manner :

Palamede. ‘ Madam, you are obey’d
‘ in part, and if I acquiesce to every
‘ thing you demand, it is not to be
‘ imagined that you would be one jot
‘ less in my power than now ; — our
‘ friends are too deeply engaged with
‘ each other to suffer themselves to be
‘ interrupted ; and as to the people of
‘ the house they know their distance, and
‘ are always extremely deaf on these oc-
‘ casions.’

On hearing him speak thus she burst into a flood of Tears, and throwing herself into a chair, cry’d out,

Emilia. ‘ Oh heavens ! — is this pos-
‘ sible ! — can Corisca be so vile ! — am
‘ I betray’d ! — basely given up by her
‘ to infamy and ruin !’

On hearing her make this exclamation, he left the place where he had been standing and seated himself near her, — then taking one of her hands and pressing it tenderly to his lips, spoke to this effect :

Palamede. ‘ Not so, my angel ! —
‘ by heaven, the transactions of this night
‘ shall

‘ shall be for ever a sacred and inviolable
‘ secret! — not even Favonius nor Co-
‘ risca shall be acquainted with it if you
‘ desire the contrary; — I know they
‘ will laugh at me, but no matter, — I
‘ can bear all that, and much more, to
‘ comply with the least request made by
‘ my dear Emilia; — oh then be kind,
‘ and blefs my longing wishes! — let no
‘ reluctance damp the coming joys, but
‘ yield to share the happiness you give!’

The consternation of Emilia, on finding she was exposed to the danger she now was in, by the very woman whom she most had loved, and most believed her friend, had thrown her into so profound a reverie, that I much question whether she heard any part of what Palamede had lately been speaking to her, ’till closing his protestations with a strenuous embrace, she started up, broke from him, and looking wildly round the room she spy’d two swords, which Favonius and Palamede had pluck’d off on their entrance and put in a window, — she snatch’d up one of them, and drawing it out of the scabbard in an instant, held the point to her breast, saying at the same time,

Emilia.

Emilia. ‘ Here is at least a refuge
‘ from dishonour ; — that base woman,
‘ who thought to make me as vile as I
‘ now find she is herself, shall meet with
‘ a disappointment she perhaps does not
‘ expect ; — if you offer to approach me,
‘ or advance one step beyond the spot
‘ you stand upon, this goes into my
‘ heart !’

The amazement, — the shock, — the confusion Palamede was in at this action is altogether impossible to describe ; — her words, — her looks, — her voice, — convincing him she was indeed in earnest, he remain’d speechless, — without motion, — his eyes fixed on her in a kind of stupid stare, and seem’d like one transfix’d with thunder, — at length, recovering himself a little, he said to her, in a faltering voice,

Palamede. ‘ For heaven’s sake, ma-
‘ dam, wound not thus my soul by the
‘ sight of your despair ! — you have no
‘ cause ! — it is certain that I long have
‘ lov’d you, but never had a thought of
‘ seducing your innocence ; — the plot to
‘ bring you hither was not of my con-
‘ triving ; — ’tis true I came into it, as
‘ where is the man would not ? but be
‘ assured

‘ assured I am no ravisher, nor capable of
‘ owing my pleasures to brutal violence;
‘ — oh therefore throw aside that cruel
‘ weapon, or turn the point on me, and
‘ if I make the least attempt to offend
‘ your modesty bury it to the hilt within
‘ my bosom!’

Emilia. ‘ Sir, I once look’d upon
‘ you as a man of honour, and should
‘ rejoice to find you could redeem yourself
‘ in my opinion.’

Palamede. ‘ By all that’s sacred, not
‘ the utmost gratification of my loosest
‘ wishes could have given me half the
‘ joy as now, to prove myself not wholly
‘ unworthy the esteem of such exalted
‘ virtue! — Charming Emilia! — per-
‘ fect in mind as well as form! — in
‘ both angelic! — behold me your con-
‘ vert! — The love I had for you is now
‘ rarified into adoration! — your virtue,
‘ like chemists gold, turns all into itself,
‘ and leaves no grosser particles behind!
‘ — forgive what is past, and never —
‘ never more will I presume to entertain
‘ you with discourses less chaste and pure
‘ than your own virgin thoughts!’

Emilia. ‘ May I believe this peni-
‘ tence sincere?’

Palamede.

Palamede. ‘ You may, by heaven
‘ and when I relapse into my former
‘ crime, may infamy, — diseases, — the
‘ contempt of the whole world, — your
‘ eternal hatred, and every other curse
‘ fall on me !’

Emilia. ‘ Then find some way, if pos-
‘ sible, to take me immediately from this
‘ place, and conduct me safe to my own
‘ apartment.’

Palamede. ‘ My readiness to obey
‘ you, madam, I hope, will prove the
‘ integrity of my present intentions, and
‘ be some atonement for the past ; — it
‘ is my happiness to have it in my power
‘ to do what you require with much more
‘ ease than you imagine ; — you shall no
‘ longer, beautiful Emilia, be imposed
‘ upon ; — the coachman, whom we
‘ pretended had left us, has only put up
‘ at an inn not above forty yards distant
‘ from this house ; — I suppose he may
‘ be gone to bed by this time, as we
‘ told him we should not return to Lon-
‘ don ’till the morning ; but I will send
‘ and have him roused.’

He had scarce made an end of speak-
ing these words, when he rang the bell,
and

and a waiter coming presently up, he gave him the necessary orders for fulfilling the promise he had just given to Emilia; on which that young lady, with the utmost satisfaction in her voice and eyes, cry'd out,

Emilia. ' This is truly honourable, indeed, — and worthy of yourself.'

Something which that instant started into the mind of Palamede, hinder'd him from making any answer, or even, perhaps, from hearing what she said; — he rang the Bell a second time with all his force, and call'd for pen, ink and paper, which being brought, he told Emilia that decency and good manners would not suffer him to depart without taking some notice of the occasion to Favonius, with whom he had always lived in a perfect good understanding, and therefore intreated her permission to write a few lines to that gentleman: — the request was too reasonable not to be complied with, and he sat down and dictated the following little epistle:

TO FAVONIUS.

“ My dear friend,

“ **T**HINGS have happen'd very different from what I was made to expect in regard to Emilia : — in fine, — she is not a woman but an angel, — as such I shall always esteem her, and think it my glory to obey every command she is pleased to lay upon me : — the first she has honour'd me with is to remove her hence and conduct her to her own apartment, which I am just now about to do. — I have no opportunity to discharge the music or the expences of the house, so beg you will take the whole upon you, and meet me to-morrow evening at Braund's, where we will sup together and settle that affair. — Make what compliments and excuses you shall think proper for me to Corisca, and believe me,

“ With the greatest sincerity,

“ Dear Favonius,

“ Yours, &c.

“ PALAMEDE.”

While

While Palamede was thus employ'd,
it also came into Emilia's head to let
Corisca know some part of the resentment
she had conceived against her, — according-
ly she took another pen out of the
standish and express'd herself in these
terms :

TO CORISCA.

“MADAM,

“**W**HAT the united report of all
“who know you could never have
“made me believe, your behaviour this
“night has not only convinced me of,
“but also that the tongue of malice can
“find nothing wherewith to aggravate
“your real guilt. — Was it not enough,
“oh most ungenerous woman! to sink
“your own honour and reputation in
“eternal infamy, but you must also en-
“deavour to drag others into perdition
“with you! — Know, to your confu-
“sion, that I happily escaped the snare
“you had laid for me, and shall reap
“this benefit by my late danger, as to
“avoid the company of a person whom
“to preserve an acquaintance with must
“in the end have been the ruin of my
“character, if not of my virtue; for be
“assured, I shall henceforward be as

D 2

“careful

" careful to shun your presence as ever I
 " was eager to come into it. — Here
 " ceases all farther intercourse between
 " us ; — may the disappointment of your
 " base designs on me serve as a warning
 " to you not to attempt the like on any
 " other equally inadvertent and uncau-
 " tious as the

" Much deceived

" EMILIA."

They had just finish'd, and made up
 the above billets, when the waiter return'd
 and told Palamede that he had, tho' not
 without some difficulty, prevail'd on the
 coachman to rise, and that before he left
 the inn he had seen him go into the stable
 to bring out the horses.

Palamede then gave him the letter he
 had wrote to Favonius, — saying,

Palamede. ' Be sure to deliver this to
 " the gentleman who came with us, as
 " soon as he shall be stirring, — and let
 " him know I shall send the coach back
 " in the morning.'

Emilia also put into his hands her
 epistle to Corisca, with these words :

Emilia.

Emilia. ‘ And let the lady know I
‘ left this for her.’

The fellow reply’d, that they might depend he would be punctual in discharging the commission they entrusted him with, and then withdrew.

Finding my Chrystaline Tablets were now overcharg’d, I was oblig’d to shut them up, so can relate no farther particulars of what conversation pass’d between Palamede and Emilia during the small time they waited for the coach to carry them away; — and can only say in general, that the greatest reserve and distance was observed on both sides: — Emilia, though now perfectly satisfied with the contrition of Palamede, thought it would be imprudent to appear too gay; — and Palamede, fearful to renew her apprehensions, behaved towards her with all the solemnity of a Chinese Mandarin.

On their going down they were met at the bottom of the stairs by the woman who kept this tavern, or rather brothel; who ushering in what she had to say with a low curtsy, told Emilia that she flatter’d herself with the expectation of her sleeping there that night, and hoped nothing

disagreeable had happen'd to occasion her departure at so unseasonable an hour ; — adding, that she should never forgive herself if any thing in her house had obliged so sweet a young lady.

Emilia answer'd this fawning speech only with a look of contempt ; but Palamede told her she need be under no concern on that score, — the lady had no objections to her house, but chose never to sleep out of her own apartment.

No more was said, — they went into the coach and I follow'd on foot ; for I had not curiosity enough to make me stay the remainder of the night in that place, for no other purpose than to see how Favonius and Corisca would behave on being told that Palamede and Emilia were gone, and receiving the epistles that gentleman and lady had left for them.

I had a long walk home ; but my Invisibility secured me from the danger of any insults, and the satisfaction that rose in my mind, on the noble conquest virtue had gain'd over vice, made the way seem much less tedious.

A few days after I was inform'd, by the report of the town, that Palamede
made

made his public addresses to Emilia:—being willing to be better convinced in the truth of this matter, I made several visits to Emilia's apartment, and found that in fact the thing was as I had been told; — Palamede, who really lov'd Emilia much more than perhaps he was sensible of himself, before this proof she had given him of her virtue, got over that objection which the scantiness of her fortune had before laid in his way; and Emilia, who had liked him as much as Corisca had said she did, gave all the encouragement he could wish to his honourable passion.

I look upon the affair to be now in a manner concluded on, and that a very short time will consummate their mutual wishes,—a catastrophe which I doubt not but every generous reader will heartily rejoice at as well as myself.

Favonius, who is in reality a man of strict honour and good principles, though somewhat too sanguine in his amours, still continues his intimacy with Palamede, and highly applauds his conversion in favour of the fair inspirer of his honourable flame; — Corisca bites her lips whenever the name of Emilia is mention'd, and endeavours all she can to traduce that virtue

which she had not the power to destroy ; but all she says on that score serves only to shew more plainly her own bad heart ; and Emilia, by refraining all conversation with her, has entirely regain'd that esteem and good opinion which she had well nigh lost.



C H A P. IV.

Contains the rehearsal of a conversation which the Author accidentally happen'd to be witness of, and looks upon himself as bound by an indispensable obligation to make public ; though perfectly conscious, from his observations of mankind, that there are a very great many of his readers who will labour all they can to bring these pages into discredit.

ONE whom I shall always rank among the number of our best English Authors, tells us in a justly esteem'd poem, that

- Wisdom is still to sloth too great a slave,
- None are so busy as the fool and knave.

How

How widely different are the pictures drawn of a person whose prudence makes him act and talk with circumspection and reserve? — How various are the representations made of him? — He has almost as many characters as there are speakers of him; — by the abundance one hears of him the judgment is distracted, and there is no forming a right idea of what he truly is.

One can go into no company without hearing some mention made of Lord Honorius, yet one shall seldom find any two people agree in their opinion concerning him, either as to his abilities or principles, whether in religious, moral, or political matters.

He is no follower of the court, yet does not totally avoid going thither; — he professes himself a member of the establish'd church, yet converses freely with those of different persuasions; he listens attentively to the arguments urged by persons of all parties and all sects, without offering any of his own, or giving his opinion, which are wrong or which are right.

For this reason all the zealots, both in religion and politics, brand him with

lukewarmness, and say he is a man of an uncertain way of thinking, and has no settled principle of acting.

Some few there are who applaud his moderation, but many more who look upon it as a piece of low cunning, thereby to cover some latent designs he has within his bosom ; but of what nature these are I have heard many warm disputes about. — Some will needs have him in the interest of the Pretender, and others that he is secretly a tool of the Ministry : — some have confidently averr'd that they have seen a white rose carry'd into his house on the 10th of June, and others that he has worn a yellow waistcoat on the birth-day of his present Majesty ; — as if an innocent flower, or the colour of a piece of silk, were sufficient tokens to shew the wishes of the wearer's heart.

As to his oeconomy in private life, he is not at all expensive in dress, equipage, or the furniture of his house, chusing to appear rather below his rank than in any particular to exceed it : — this is frequently attributed to his covetousness, while more favourable judges suppose it to be owing to his contempt of the modish fopperies of the age : — he partakes of all the pleasures of the town, but never pursues

pursues them to an excess or with eagerness; — the graver sort of people ascribe this to his discretion, and the more gay to want of spirit and coldness of constitution.

Thus apt are we to form a vain judgment on things we know nothing of; — the heart of man is incomprehensible, unless discovered by himself in some glaring proof either of virtue or vice; — the first he may not have an opportunity to set forth in any conspicuous light, and the latter he may have artifice and hypocrisy enough to gloss over and conceal. — How impossible then is it to be certain to which of these he is in reality devoted?

Among the variety of descriptions and reports in relation to Lord Honorius, I found, notwithstanding, that it was agreed on by all hands, that though he would not suffer himself to be imposed upon by his tradesmen, yet he always took care their bills should be paid with the utmost exactness and punctuality, and that he never dealt with foreigners. — These articles, however insignificant they may seem to some of those who call themselves the polite world, I confess, gave me such an idea both of his prudence and justice, as made me immediately join with those

who spoke the greatest things in his praise in other respects.

But being desirous of penetrating more deeply into the reality of this nobleman's disposition, I resolved to try how my Invisibilityship would serve that end, and accordingly made a visit one morning at his house.

I pass'd through several neat rooms, the furniture of which was rich, and befitting the dignity and fortune of the owner; but had nothing of gaudiness in it. — At last I found the person I went to seek, — he was in a closet within his dressing-room and had a book in his hand; — I was curious to see what was the subject of his meditations, and looking over his shoulder perceived it was the poems of our English Pindar, the celebrated Mr. Abraham Cowley; — the page he was employ'd in on my entrance contain'd, among others, these lines :

“ Oh! fountains! when in you shall I,
 “ Eas'd of unpeaceful thoughts myself
 “ espy!
 “ O fields! O woods! when shall I be
 “ made
 “ The happy tenant of your shade!

“ Here's.

- Here's the spring-head of pleasure's
 ' flood,
- ' Where all the riches lie,
- That she has coin'd and stamp'd for
 ' good,
- ' To charm the mind as well as eye.
- ' Pride and ambition here,
- Only in far-fetch'd metaphors appear ;
- Here's nought but winds can hurtful
 ' murmurs scatter,
- ' And nought but echo flatter.
- ' The Gods, when they descended hither
- From Heaven, did always chuse their
 ' way ;
- And therefore we may boldly say,
 ' That is the way too thither.

When he came to this part of the poem,
he stopp'd and cry'd out with the greatest
emphasis,

Lord Honorius. ' Charming inimitable
• Cowley ! — How just, how truly deli-
• cate are all thy notions, and how wide-
• ly different from those of the age I
• have the misfortune to live in ! — If
• one may form a judgment, as sure one
• may, by the writings of seventy or
• eighty years ago, the genius of Britain
• was far unlike what it appears at
• present.

He

He had scarce finish'd this exclamation, when a servant open'd the door and told him that Sir Whimsy Brainsick was come to wait upon him; — on which he laid aside the book, and went into the next chamber to receive his guest.

After giving and returning the customary salutations of the morning, and having seated themselves, the following dialogue ensued between them :

Lord Honorius. ‘ ’Tis a wonder to
‘ see you dress’d and abroad thus early,
‘ Sir Whimsy; — I think you are com-
‘ monly in your first sleep after this time.’

Sir Whimsy Brainsick. ‘ Ay, my Lord,
‘ but pleasure must on some occasions
‘ give way to business; — I have vast
‘ affairs upon my hands at present; — I
‘ only snatch’d a moment to take leave
‘ of your Lordship, and two hours hence
‘ shall set out for the country.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ On your election,
‘ I suppose?’

Sir Whimsy Brainsick. ‘ No, no, —
‘ my Lord Triffli Triffli has secur’d me
‘ a borough without my taking the trouble
‘ of ever going near it; — my business
‘ at present is down at *****, where I
‘ have

‘ have a considerable estate, and, I believe, a pretty good interest; and I have engag’d myself to strain both, as far as they will go, in favour of Sir Crafty Shallowbuggen.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ Sir Crafty Shallowbuggen!—What then has mr. Worthy, the present member, declined standing?’

Sir Whimsy Brainsick. ‘ No, no, my Lord, he has not declined; but we are resolved to have him out at any rate.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ I would not have you deceive yourself, Sir Whimsy, — mr. Worthy is a gentleman who I am told is highly esteem’d by his constituents, and you may be at a great deal of expence to oppose him to no purpose.’

Sir Whimsy Brainsick. ‘ As to the expence, I don’t doubt but it will be made up to me some way or other; — I have my eye upon a place; and, I can tell you, am as good as promis’d either that or a riband.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ The character I have heard of mr. Worthy makes me sorry so powerful an opposition should be set on foot against him.’

Sir

Sir Whimsey Brainsick. ‘ He has been:
 ‘ stubborn, my Lord, very stubborn, —
 ‘ has voted against the Jew and Clan-
 ‘ destine Marriage Bills ; — and it is not
 ‘ fit the Ministry should be affronted. —
 ‘ Your Lordship, I suppose, is a friend
 ‘ to the Ministry.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ Sir, I never gave
 ‘ any man reason to believe I was the
 ‘ contrary.’

Sir Whimsey Brainsick. ‘ No, no, —
 ‘ Your Lordship is too wise ; — those
 ‘ who are friends to the Ministry are
 ‘ friends to themselves ; — for my own
 ‘ part, if it were not to oblige them I
 ‘ would not give two-pence who had the
 ‘ election at *****, or any where else. —
 ‘ But I must beg your lordship’s pardon,
 ‘ — I have a thousand things to dispatch,
 ‘ and would not be waited for by four or
 ‘ five gentlemen who accompany me on
 ‘ the same expedition, — so your Lord-
 ‘ ship’s most obedient.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ Yours, Sir Whimsey,
 ‘ — I wish you a good journey.’

With these words they parted, — Lord
 Honorius saw him to the top of the stair-
 case,

safe, and then turn'd back to his closet, saying to himself as he went, .

Lord Honorius. ' What a wild world
' is this ! — How do men toil to bring
' infamy on themselves, and entail cer-
' tain ruin on their posterity !'

As I thought, by the little sample I had seen, that it was now in my power to make a better judgment of the sentiments of this nobleman than by all I had heard from others, I was following Sir Whimsey Brainfick down Stairs; but on hearing some debate between a plain honest-looking countryman and a spruce footman, who, as I found afterwards, had been but lately taken into my Lord's service, I stopp'd short to listen to the occasion.

I soon perceived that the countryman was desirous of speaking to his Lordship, and the fellow, judging by appearances, thought it too great a presumption, and would fain have turn'd him from the door; but the rustic was not so easily repulsed as the other had imagined; — the first words I could hear distinctly were as follow :

Footman.

Footman. ‘ I tell you, friend, I know
 ‘ not whether my Lord is at home or
 ‘ not; — or if he is, whether he pleases
 ‘ to be visible; — but if you let me
 ‘ know what business you have with him,
 ‘ and from whom you came, I will take
 ‘ care his lordship shall be inform’d, and
 ‘ you may have your answer to-morrow.’

Countryman. ‘ Goodluck, mr. Skip-
 ‘ jack, — who are you? — my Lord is
 ‘ not used to have such malapert fellows
 ‘ about him: — but if I must not see
 ‘ my Lord, pray let me speak to mr.
 ‘ Downright, the gentleman that dresses
 ‘ and waits upon him, — he knows me
 ‘ well enough, and will give me a better
 ‘ answer.’

The footman then vouchsafed to call
 the person he mention’d, and the country-
 man had the satisfaction to find himself
 well received, — mr. Downright shook
 him cordially by the hand, — told him
 he was glad to see him in London, and
 ask’d him what business had brought him
 hither; — to which the other reply’d,

Countryman. ‘ In good troth I did
 ‘ not come upon pleasure, — I have bu si-
 ‘ ness, — very great business with my
 ‘ Lord,

‘ Lord, and would fain speak to him, —
‘ if so be I may have liberty to come into
‘ his presence, as you know, ‘mr. Down-
‘ right, I have done many a good time
‘ in the country : — but that mr. Finikin
‘ there, with his pig-tail wig, stands as
‘ it were like a mud-wall to keep every
‘ body off the house.’

Mr. Downright. ‘ Oh he did not know
‘ you, mr. Goodacre ; and besides, he
‘ has lived in families where nobody with-
‘ out a coach or chair are admitted ; —
‘ but I will acquaint my Lord you are
‘ here, — he is alone, and I am sure will
‘ see you.’

Countryman. ‘ Thank you, mr. Down-
‘ right ; — it is well there are some civil
‘ people in this same town.’

Mr. Downright then went on his mes-
sage, — the footman look’d very sheepish
and sneak’d away, while the countryman
strutted about the hall as great as an em-
peror, ‘till the valet return’d and desir’d
him to walk up.

As I took mr. Goodacre for one of
my Lord’s tenants, and imagin’d he was
only come on the score of renewing a
lease, or some other country affairs rela-
ting

ting to himself, which I had no manner of curiosity to pry into, I was in some debate within myself whether I should stay or go directly out of the house, the door being then open; but a certain impulse, the meaning of which I cannot account for, sway'd me to pursue my first thought, and I turn'd back and accompanied him into the presence of my Lord, from whom he met with a reception not commonly given by persons of quality to a man of his plain appearance, except on particular occasions.

His Lordship made him sit down in a chair very near himself, and, with a smiling countenance and the greatest affability in his voice and air, told him he was glad to see him look so well and hearty, — that he hoped his wife and family enjoy'd the same share of good health, — and then ask'd what business had brought him up to London: — to the former part of these obliging speeches he only answer'd with several low bows; but to the latter reply'd in these terms:

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ Why, my Lord, your
 ‘ Lordship knows we are going to have
 ‘ a new Parliament, — and belike there
 ‘ will be a great bustle all over the king-
 ‘ dom about Elections; — and no wonder
 ‘ if

‘ if there be ; — every one makes us such
‘ fair promises when they come to ask us
‘ for our votes, that ’tis a hard matter to
‘ know which we can most depend upon ;
‘ — we have been served basely, very
‘ basely, by some of our representatives,
‘ —and it behoves us to be very cautious
‘ for the future.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ Very true, mr. Good-
‘ acre, it does so indeed, — and I hope
‘ the nation will think so.’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ Now as to our bo-
‘ rough, — no man could make finer
‘ speeches to us, or pretend he had our
‘ interest more at heart, than ’Squire
‘ Earnly, before he was chosen, yet he no
‘ sooner got into the house than he shew’d
‘ he did not care a straw for us, — laugh’d
‘ at all our petitions and remonstrances,
‘ and, I am told, made a merit of it to
‘ the Ministry.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ I am afraid there
‘ are too many who have done so. —
‘ Does the same gentleman set up again?’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ No, my Lord, — he
‘ would have no chance for it if he
‘ did, — we know him too well, he sees
‘ that well enough ; — but ’tis thought,
‘ how-

‘ however, that he will get in for some
‘ place or other.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ Nothing more like-
‘ ly. — But do you hear who intends to
‘ offer himself in his stead?’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ Yes, my Lord, —
‘ great interest is already making for one
‘ Capt. Sashbright; — he is as fine a per-
‘ son, indeed, as the sun shines upon; —
‘ but we know nothing of him: — he is
‘ recommended by Sir Courtly Jobber,
‘ — has brought a power of money down
‘ with him; — they went together in
‘ Sir Courtly’s coach to ***** fair, —
‘ bought a many things, and gave them
‘ to every body about them; — guineas
‘ and broad pieces fly about like hail; —
‘ any one, almost, may have them for
‘ picking up.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ So then he may easily
‘ carry it, I suppose?’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ I cannot tell that, my
‘ Lord, — there was a numerous meeting
‘ at the Rose about a fortnight ago, and
‘ Squire Wellwood of the Green was put
‘ in nomination, — his family has been
‘ settled for a long time at *****; he
‘ lives most part in the country, — does
‘ a great

‘ a great deal of good among the poor,
‘ and is mainly beloved.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ I know him, mr.
‘ Goodacre, — he is certainly a very
‘ worthy gentleman.’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ Ay, my Lord, — he
‘ would have it all to nothing, if it was
‘ not for one consideration.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ What is that?’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ The Captain has pro-
‘ mised, that if he gets his election he
‘ will procure an Act of Parliament for
‘ a new Road to be cut, at the Govern-
‘ ment’s expence, from ***** to *****,
‘ which your Lordship knows would be
‘ a great advantage to our market.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ A very great one,
‘ indeed.’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ Ay, my Lord, if we
‘ were sure it would be done; — but
‘ there lies the query. — Some people
‘ will promise any thing to gain their
‘ point, and never think of it afterwards.
‘ — We all know ‘Squire Wellwood to
‘ be a noble gentleman, — and so may
‘ Capt. Sashbright too, — he may or he
‘ may

‘ may not. — Now we are strangely divided in our opinions, whether we ought to leave the certain good for the uncertain better, — and have at length resolved to be decided by your Lordship.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ By me!’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ Yes, my Lord, we know your Lordship to be a wise man, and a true lover of your country.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ I have always thought, mr. Goodacre, that to meddle in these things would prove me deserving neither of the one nor the other of the epithets you give me ; — every elector ought to give his vote according to the dictates of his conscience, and not suffer himself to be sway’d by any interest or motive whatever ; and for a nobleman, or other person of distinction, to attempt, either by menaces or cajolings, to make them act to the contrary, appears to me to be the most gross encroachment on Liberty that can be offer’d.’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ But here the case is widely different, my Lord.’

Lord

Lord Honorius. ‘ I grant it is. — You
‘ desire my advice as a friend, — not sub-
‘ mit to be govern’d by me as a director;
‘ — it would therefore be ungenerous,
‘ and even cruel, in me to suffer you to
‘ be deluded by false pretences, when it
‘ is so easily in my power to put you
‘ upon your guard against them. — In
‘ the first place, you ought to consider
‘ that Capt. Sashbright, whatever his
‘ character may otherwise be, is an officer
‘ in the army, — and as such it is his in-
‘ terest to promote the continuance of a
‘ standing army, and consequently of
‘ those taxes which are necessary for the
‘ support of it. — In the second, Sir
‘ Courtly Jobber, who it seems is the
‘ person who recommends him, has for
‘ a long time, to my certain knowledge,
‘ been an agent for the ministry, and is
‘ indebted for his title, and the best
‘ part of the estate he is in possession of,
‘ merely to the good services he has ren-
‘ der’d them.’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ Ay marry, — these
‘ things are worth thinking of indeed: —
‘ so I suppose, my Lord, the money he
‘ so plentifully throws about is none of
‘ his own?’

Lord Honorius. ‘Not a doit, — he will be reimburs’d with interest.’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘And yet I know not, my Lord, but there may be some among us foolish enough to be inveigled by this bait. — Alackaday! — we country people are ignorant of such practices; — we little think what the great folks in town are doing, and a many there are that would not believe a word of it without good authority. — Oh I wish your Lordship were down at Eg-gum-Hall at this critical juncture.’

Lord Honorius. ‘I will be there, mr. Goodacre, in spite of the aversion I have always had to appear at elections, or to distinguish myself on any occasion; — my love to the place which gave me birth, and good-will to my countrymen, shall overbalance all other considerations; — I will do all I can to strengthen the weak eyes which are in danger of being dazled with Sir Courtly’s gold, and shew them the false lustre of his fleeting promises.’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘Heaven bless your Lordship! — a noble resolution!’

Lord

Lord Honorius. ‘ When do you return, mr. Goodacre ?’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ I shall lie but this one night in town, my Lord; and set out betime to-morrow morning.’

Lord Honorius. ‘ I will not be two days behind you ; — in the mean time you may tell them what I say.’

Mr. Goodacre. ‘ It will be joyful news to some.’

There pass’d no farther conversation between them, the honest countryman rose up to take his leave, full of transport at the success of his negotiation; but Lord Honorius would not permit him to depart ’till he had rung the bell for mr. Downright, and given orders that he should be made welcome with the best entertainment the house afforded; — I left him to accept the invitation, and return’d to my apartment, well satisfied in my mind that I was now enabled to form a right judgment of this nobleman’s principles and disposition.



C H A P. V.

Presents the reader with the detail of a very remarkable incident, which, I believe, if consider'd with a due attention, there are but few people, especially of the Fair Sex, who will not find themselves enabled to become better members of society by having perused.

A Certain sacred writer tells us, that the tongue is an unruly member, and preaches much concerning the government of it; — but I dare not presume to insist too much on his authority, as he has been, with others of his cotemporaries, pretty much exploded for almost half a century; and I might be look'd upon, by my polite readers, as a very old-fashion'd silly fellow to make any mention of him.

But I may venture, without running the risque of being read with a horse-laugh, to quote the words of another very great and learned person of a more modern date, who says, — that the tongue
is

is the most dangerous of all weapons ; — that it is capable of destroying all peace, all love, all harmony in the world ; — of sowing dissentions among families ; of disuniting the hearts of the dearest friends and relations ; of ruining the reputation and fortune of whomsoever it is levell'd against ; and that even murders and the worst of mischiefs may be occasion'd by it.

That the tongue, when it becomes the instrument of a malicious heart, carries a thousand daggers in it, is a truth which the observation of every one evinces. — But this is not all, — public abuse or private scandal, defamation and detraction, are not the only vices of the tongue, — an unguarded word is frequently productive of the most unhappy consequences, — it wounds, as it were, by chance-medley, and a person may be stabb'd in the most tender part without any intention in the giver of the blow.

A talkative disposition, or, in other words, a passion for repeating every thing one sees and hears, or even guesses at, is extremely dangerous to society ; and tho' it is a foible proceeding rather from levity than ill-nature, sometimes produces the same effects ; — those guilty of it, per-

haps, may mean no hurt ; — but, alas ! they consider not how far the person to whom they are speaking may be interested in the report they make, and that what they imagine of no moment may stab him to the quick.

Nothing is more common than for people to hurt thus at random, and by their rashness to occasion accidents, which if they foresaw they would be most careful to prevent, — as a poet of the present age emphatically enough expresses it :

- Thinking to shoot my arrow o'er the
 ' house,
- I have kill'd my brother.'

But this inadvertency, as great a weakness as it doubtless is, has in it somewhat yet more excuseable than to reveal a secret which we are conscious must give the hearer pain. — I confess that this is sometimes done thro' good-will ; but then it is a very mistaken good-will in many cases. — If I know a person sustains an injury, and has it in his power to redress the grievance, it is certainly my duty to acquaint him with it ; but when the evil is without a remedy, it is infinitely more kind to suffer him to remain in ignorance.

To

To be well deceived, is almost equal to not being deceived at all, — our happiness consists in the imagination of it; and if we firmly believe ourselves possess'd of what we wish, it is the same thing as being so in reality: — How cruel is it then for any one to draw back the friendly curtain that hides ill fortune from us, and compel us to behold our wretchedness!

Every one who is thus unhappily undeceived may cry out with Bellamira in the play,

‘ Ah, cruel friend!
‘ Why did’st thou wake me from my
‘ dream of bliss!
‘ Why bring me from that scene of
‘ fancied joys,
‘ To one of real anguish, horror and
‘ despair!’

Many unhappy instances of these well-meant ill offices have come to my knowledge since I was in possession of the Gift of Invisibility; — but I shall recite only one of them, which, as it is a very late transaction, and but few people know the real truth of, is at present a matter of much speculation among those who are

any way acquainted with the parties concerned, or have even heard their names.

Meroveus and Deidamia were an extreme happy pair, the railers against marriage could find nothing in the conduct of either of them to countenance any sarcasms on that state; — the most tender affection had been the chief, if not the sole motive of the union between them; and the secure and uninterrupted possession of each other, instead of diminishing, seem'd rather to increase their mutual ardour, and the first bridal fondness appear'd in their behaviour after having served a more than seven years apprenticeship to Hymen.

Yet, how on a sudden have we seen all this sweet serenity turn'd into storms and tempests? — Meroveus and Deidamia, who it was thought could not have lived a single week out of each other's presence, are now parted, — according to all probability, — parted, — to meet no more in love.

Besides the many great accomplishments which justified the affection they so long had towards each other, both of them were accounted persons of an excellent understanding and solid sense, — nothing therefore could have more amazed

zed the world than that they should come to this open rupture, even though some little cause of complaint had happen'd either on the one side or the other.

An event so strange, so little dream'd of, put all conjecture to a stand; — people pretended not even to guess what should be the occasion, much less to unravel so great a mystery, — the accomplishment of that work was reserved by fate for the Invisible Spy alone.

The manner in which I made this discovery, I shall relate as concisely, as the conversation which let me into it will admit of.

As I was one day taking a solitary walk on Constitution-Hill, I saw *Deidamia* leaning on the arm of *Eutracia*, a lady of birth and fortune, who had been bred up with her at the boarding-school, and ever since been her most intimate friend and companion; — just as they approach'd the place where I was, the following dialogue began between them:

Deidamia. ‘ Now for the secret you
‘ have to tell me; — methinks I have a
‘ more than ordinary impatience to hear
‘ it, and we cannot be more retired, —

‘ no living soul is near us, and there is
‘ no danger of any one coming to inter-
‘ rupt our discourse, as all the world are
‘ in the Mall.’

Eutracia. ‘ I will not keep you long
‘ in suspense, my dear ; — but first you
‘ must answer two or three questions I
‘ have to ask you, and then resolve to
‘ arm yourself with all the fortitude you
‘ are mistress of not to be too much
‘ shock’d at what I shall relate.’

Deidamia. ‘ I cannot conceive that
‘ there is any thing, which either you or
‘ any one else can tell me, capable of
‘ giving me a shock. — But pray, what
‘ is it you would know from me ?’

Eutracia. ‘ The town looks upon
‘ you as one of the most happy women
‘ in it, — is it true that you are really
‘ so ?’

Deidamia. ‘ Indeed, my dear, I think
‘ myself so ; — and if I would labour to
‘ be more blest’d, know not how to
‘ form a single wish beyond what I
‘ possess.’

Eutracia. ‘ There are many private
‘ causes of disquiet, — which prudence
‘ obliges

‘ obliges us to conceal. — Are you thoroughly convinced of the affection of your husband ?’

Deidamia. ‘ I never had the least cause to doubt it ; and the tenderness I have for him is so sincere and delicate, as I think would make me easily perceive a want of it in him. — But wherefore do you ask ; — you cannot have any reason to suspect him ?’

Eutracia. Ah, poor Deidamia !’

Deidamia. ‘ Why do you sigh, and look so piously upon me ? — some wretch has certainly belyed Meroveus to you.’

Eutracia. ‘ No ; — but one more interrogatory and I have done. — Does he never absent himself without letting you know where he goes ? — never lie out of his own house ?’

Deidamia. ‘ Very seldom, and that but lately ; — an intimate friend of his makes his addressee to a young lady at Hammer-smith, — he frequently desires my husband’s company with him, and they sometimes stay all night, when having supped there, it is dangerous to

‘ return to London, as the roads are now
‘ infested.’

Eutracia. ‘ How easy is it to deceive
‘ the innocent. — Meroveus is a villain.’

Deidamia. How, Eutracia ! — a vil-
‘ lain ! — Had any other call’d him so,
‘ my resentment should have shewn how
‘ much I despise so base an accusation.’

Eutracia. ‘ Alas ! — ’tis your own
‘ love and honour makes you so tenacious
‘ of his, but he is false in both ; — and
‘ I again repeat the name, — he is a vil-
‘ lain, and will put it in your own power
‘ to prove him so by the testimony of
‘ your own eyes and ears, — provided
‘ you promise to give him no previous
‘ hints that you have discover’d, or even
‘ suspect his perfidy.’

Deidamia. ‘ But how ! — how, Eu-
‘ tracia, is he a villain !’

Eutracia. ‘ He keeps a mistress, some
‘ common wench no doubt ; but he
‘ adores, — doats on her, — pretends
‘ himself her husband, and those nights
‘ when you imagine him at Hammer-
‘ smith, he passes with her.’

The tender Deidamia was now so overcome at these words, that her spirits quite forsook her, and she must certainly have fallen on the earth, if they had not happen'd to be very near a bench at the lower end of the walk, where Eutracia placed her ; — the keeper of the gate perceiving her condition, was so humane as to run and fetch some water, which being sprinkled on her face soon brought her to herself. — Eutracia, on seeing her fair friend thus agitated, seem'd, and I believe really was, very much concern'd at what she had done ; for she could not restrain some tears from falling down her eyes while she express'd herself in these terms :

Eutracia. ‘ My dearest Deidamia, if I had not thought you would have received this intelligence with more moderation, you should have been forever ignorant of it.’

The afflicted lady made no reply to these words, but in a few minutes growing somewhat more compos'd, quitted the bench, and leaning on Eutracia, the conversation was renewed in this manner :

Deidamia.

Deidamia. ‘ Oh, Eutracia! little are
 ‘ you capable of conceiving the agonies
 ‘ this poor distracted bleeding heart suf-
 ‘ tains! — yet I must know all. — Tell
 ‘ me by what means you got informa-
 ‘ tion of this horrid secret, and how
 ‘ you are assured of its veracity!’

Eutracia. ‘ It was not my intention
 ‘ to conceal any part of it; — but you
 ‘ must determine to listen with calmness
 ‘ to me.’

Deidamia. ‘ I will.’

Eutracia. ‘ Well then, — I will tell
 ‘ you all. — I believe you know mrs:
 ‘ Flounceit, my mantua-maker.’

Deidamia. ‘ I saw her once; — you
 ‘ may remember I was with you when
 ‘ she brought home your last new sack.’

Eutracia. ‘ That woman, you must
 ‘ know, has an interest with some foreign
 ‘ merchants, and can frequently oblige
 ‘ her customers with some curious things
 ‘ which are prohibited to be sold in pub-
 ‘ lic; — she came last Monday, and ac-
 ‘ quainted me that she had several patterns
 ‘ of the most beautiful chints that ever
 ‘ were

‘ were seen ; — I went the next morning
‘ in order to see them, and was carried
‘ into a back parlour for the sake of
‘ privacy ; as I was looking over the
‘ goods I heard a man call from the
‘ top of the stair-case to know if the
‘ coach was come ; I thought myself
‘ perfectly acquainted with the voice,
‘ tho’ I could not just then recollect whose
‘ it was ; but presently after saw Me-
‘ roveus lead a woman cross the garden,
‘ at the lower end of which there is a
‘ little door that opens into another
‘ street ; — a pebble, or some such thing,
‘ happening to lie in the walk, she
‘ stumbled in passing, on which he cry’d
‘ out with the greatest tenderness, — “ I
‘ hope you are not hurt, my love ! ” —
‘ “ No, reply’d she briskly, — not at all,
‘ “ I cannot receive any prejudice when
‘ “ my guardian angel is so near.” — I
‘ was so astonish’d at what I saw and
‘ heard, that I had not power to speak,
‘ ’till mrs. Flounceit seeing me look ear-
‘ nestly after them, told me they were
‘ her lodgers ; — that they were lately
‘ married ; but some reasons obliging
‘ them to keep it private, they met each
‘ other there only once or twice a week ;
‘ — So, said she, I have very little
‘ trouble with them, and they pay me a
‘ good rent.” — “ But are you sure,
‘ cry’d

“ cry’d I, that they are man and wife ?
“ — it may be an intrigue.” — “ No,
“ answer’d she, they were recommended
“ to me by a gentleman who formerly
“ lodged with me himself, one Sir David
“ Townly.”

Deidamia. ‘ Oh heavens ! — Sir David
‘ Townly ! — Why he is the very per-
‘ son my husband pretends he goes with
‘ to Hammerfmith.’

Eutracia. ‘ ’Tis likely he may be his
‘ confidant in this amour.’

Deidamia. ‘ Yet still I know not how
‘ to think it real, — one man may be
‘ like another. — Are you certain it was
‘ Meroveus whom you saw ?’

Eutracia. ‘ As certain as that it is
‘ Deidamia to whom I am talking. —
‘ Did he not lie abroad laft Monday
‘ night ?’

Deidamia. ‘ He did.

Eutracia. ‘ And had he not on a
‘ dark-brown velvet coat and a black
‘ waistcoat trimm’d with bugles ?’

Deidamia.

Deidamia. ‘ He had. — Oh I can no longer shut my eyes against conviction ! — the dreadful truth is too glaring to be resisted, and I see myself the most miserable of women !’

Eutracia. ‘ Do not think so, — rather exert the spirit of an injur’d wife, — detect him in his guilt, shame him to repentance, and make him sue for pardon.’

Deidamia. ‘ Oh that such love as ours has been should come to this !’

Eutracia. ‘ All yet may be retriev’d ; — your just reproaches may make him loath his past follies, and become more yours than if he never had transgress’d : — the next time he takes his pretended journey to Hammersmith let me know it.’

Deidamia. ‘ He is gone thither now ; — just before you came to call me to the Park he told me Sir David had engag’d his company, and he believ’d he should not return ’till morning.’

Eutracia. ‘ Well then he shall be met, my dear Deidamia, he shall be met by those he least expects or desires
‘ to

‘ to see ; — I will take you in the morn-
 ‘ ing to mrs. Flounceit’s, under pretence
 ‘ of bringing her a new customer ; —
 ‘ there you will have the same opportu-
 ‘ nity I had of discovering your husband’s
 ‘ guilt, and may act as you shall judge
 ‘ proper on the occasion.’

Deidamia. ‘ How shall I contain my-
 ‘ self ! — base — base man ! — cruel de-
 ‘ ceiver of my fond, my unsuspecting
 ‘ heart ! — How bear the sight of that
 ‘ vile she ! — that infamous deluder of
 ‘ his honour ! — that cursed she who has
 ‘ robb’d me of the only treasure I valued
 ‘ upon earth, my husband’s love !’

Here she burst into the most vehement exclamations ; but my Chrystaline Remembrancer being already overcharg’d, I can only say that her behaviour verify’d the words of mr. Nat. Lee, who in his description he gives of the passions of womankind in general, has these lines :

‘ They shrink at thunder, dread the rust-
 ‘ ling wind,
 ‘ And glitt’ring swords the brightest eyes
 ‘ will blind ;
 ‘ Yet when strong jealousy enflames the
 ‘ soul,
 ‘ The weak will rage, and calms to tem-
 ‘ pests roll.’

The

The ladies continued their walk 'till Phœbus beginning to withdraw his beams they both thought proper to retire from the approaching dews. — Eutraccia, justly apprehending the agitations of her friend would become more violent, if left alone and at liberty to indulge them, offer'd to be her companion that night, which the other gladly accepted, and I saw them take coach together for Deidamia's house, — after which I went home.

C H A P. VI.

Which, according to the Author's opinion, stands in no need of a prelude, as it contains only the sequel of an adventure too interesting to all degrees of people not to demand the attention of every reader.

I Was truly concern'd at the injustice which I perceived poor Deidamia sustained, and but little pleas'd with Eutraccia, either for the information she had given her of it, or for advising her to detect Meroveus in the manner concerted between them; — indeed, I fear'd that the

the consequences of such an interview would be only to make the husband become more harden'd in his guilt, and her affliction increase by finding her resentment disregarded.

Few men can bear reproofs, much less reproaches ; — if ever they quit a darling folly the reformation must come of themselves : — it must proceed from a consciousness they have done amiss, not from being told so by others ; — there is a pride in human nature which disdains admonition, and makes us persist in error, which, if not taken notice of, perhaps in time we might discover to be such, grow ashamed of, and amend.

Besides, remonstrances from a person whom we look upon as any way our inferior, either in point of understanding or circumstances, will be so far from having any weight, that they will rather add to our contempt, and, it may be, raise in us an utter aversion to the giver : — Custom has made the husband so much the head of the wife, that, tenacious of his authority, it is but seldom that he submits to be influenced by her in matters of much less moment to him than his pleasures.

Indeed

Indeed, when a woman is wrong'd in the manner Deidamia was, it must be confess'd that the shock is greatly trying, and that she has the strongest reason for complaining; — yet will she still find it most prudent to forbear: — love and gentleness are the only weapons by which that sex can hope to conquer, and she who attempts to have recourse to any other only hurts herself. — By seeming not to suspect her husband's vices, she will, at least, oblige him to keep them as private as he can, and also to treat her with all the respect due to her character and the sacred union between them; whereas by growing clamorous and impatient she furnishes him with a pretence to use her ill, and turns the indifference he before had for her into hatred and detestation.

One of our best poets has an observation on this head, which I think is very well worthy of the serious attention of all who are either injured in reality, or imagine themselves to be so, yet find it their interest to preserve an amicable correspondence with the person guilty of the injury; as it is certain that no man detected in the thing which he wishes to conceal can ever love the person by whom

whom he is detected. — The words of the author I mention'd are these :

‘ Forgiveness to the injur’d does belong ;
‘ But they ne’er pardon who have done
‘ the wrong.’

These reflections, together with my impatience to see how Deidamia would support the full conviction of her husband’s falshood, so much took up my mind, that it was a considerable time before I remember’d how great an impediment lay between me and the gratification of my curiosity. — Mrs. Flounceit’s house was to be the scene of action, and the ladies, during their whole conversation, had made no mention in what street, nor even in what quarter of the town, that woman lived : — however, as I supposed her to be a noted woman in her business, I hoped to get over this difficulty, and did so, by sending an emissary to enquire among the mercers, hoop-petticoat-makers, and other such people who are employ’d in the equipments of the ladies, and I went not to bed without receiving the direction I stood in need of.

As I knew not the hour in which Meroveus and the partner of his looser pleasures would be preparing to depart, nor that

that in which Deidamia would be conducted by Eutracia to behold this proof of her misfortune, I took care to go very early to mrs. Flounceit's, and was oblig'd to wait a considerable time before the door happen'd to be open'd to let any one pass in or out; — at last, however, it was so, — I got an opportunity to enter, — went into the back parlour, and posted myself in that corner of it which I thought would be the safest and most commodious.

My patience was not here put to any long trial, — the ladies arrived a few minutes after I came, usher'd into the room by mrs. Flounceit, who placed them on a settee with a great deal of formal complaisance, and then made some apologies, as many people do when they are dress'd as well as they can be, for being in such a deshabille, and not in the order she could wish to receive them.

It was easy for me to perceive, by Deidamia's countenance, how ill she had pass'd the night; — Eutracia also seem'd in some agitation, — though she dissembled it as well as she was able: after having given some slight answer to mrs. Flounceit's compliments, told her she had brought a friend to look over some of her

her fine things, on which the mantua-maker immediately open'd a large press, and brought out several pieces of chints, with some French brocades and rich Italian silks; — these she spread upon a table, accompanying that action with many praises on the beauty and curiosity of each.

But it was in vain she boasted, — in vain she magnified; — all she said, — as well as the real merit of the goods she exhibited to sale, was wholly lost on Deidamia; — the mind of that afflicted lady was too much bent on those things which she expected to be witness of, to have any eyes or ears for those which were not present to her; — she took up first one piece, and then another, but without seeming to know what she did; and, in fine, had something so distracted in her air and gestures, that Eutracia was obliged to keep mrs. Flounceit in discourse, to prevent her taking any notice of it.

Her behaviour, join'd with my knowledge of the cause, reminded me of mr. Dryden's words, which, if she had been inclined to think of poetry, she might pretty justly have apply'd to her own condition in this crisis:

Love,

‘ Love, justice, nature, pity, and revenge,
‘ Have kindled a wildfire in my breast ;
‘ I am all a civil war within,
‘ And like a vessel, struggling in a storm,
‘ Require more hands than one to keep
‘ me upright.’

But if she was so little able to support the bare idea of the shock she came on purpose to receive, what must she endure when suspense, and all the remains of hope, were swallowed up in the cruel certainty of her misfortune, and conviction left no farther room for doubt ? — The maid of the house came into the room with a chocolate-pot in her hand, and told her mistress that the gentleman and lady above stairs gave their compliments and desir’d the favour of her company to breakfast with them.

Mrs. Flounceit was about to make some answer to this invitation, when Deidamia, not able to contain herself, flew out of the parlour, and directly up stairs, where she found Meroveus and a young woman sitting on the side of the bed they had but lately quitted.

Deidamia had scarce enter'd the chamber when she surpriz'd the guilty Pair with these words :

Deidamia. ' I have a right, sir, to —
' think my company ought to be as acceptable to Meroveus as that of mrs.
' Flounceit, or any other woman.'

Eutracia had follow'd Deidamia as fast as she could, in order, I suppose, to prevent any desperate effects of her present passion, and I was not far behind ; but it will be more easy for the reader to conceive the surprise which appear'd in the looks of Meroveus than for me to express it ; — he started up, and with a voice which the various emotions of his mind render'd almost unintelligible, said to her :

Meroveus. ' Confusion ! — Deidamia !
' — Madam, what brings you here !'

Deidamia. ' That is a question which
' ought rather to be put to you. — I
' came in pursuit of an ungrateful, too
' much beloved husband ; — you to indulge a lawless flame for an abandon'd
' prostitute.'

Meroveus.

Mercueus. ‘Madam, — madam, this
‘ does not become you.’

Deidamia. ‘Does it become you, fir,
‘ to leave your honest home and wife, —
‘ make pitiful excuses for your absence,
‘ and skulk in corners with a wretch like
‘ this, — this abject hireling of licentious
‘ wishes!’

Mistress. ‘Madam, I would not have
‘ you think I am any such person; — I
‘ did not know Meroveus was a married
‘ man.’

Deidamia. ‘’Tis false, vile creature,
‘ you could not know Meroveus without
‘ knowing he had a wife; — a wife, who,
‘ without boasting, is every way his
‘ equal; — but get out of my sight, that
‘ I may have liberty to ask my perjurd
‘ husband what he could see in that face
‘ of yours to be preferr’d to mine.’

On this Meroveus was opening his
mouth to speak, but was prevented by
mrs. Flounceit, who being astonish’d on
the lady’s running up stairs, and by the
noise she immediately heard above, had
hobbled up as fast as her fat would give

F 2

her

her leave, and came into the room that moment, — crying as she enter'd,

Mrs. Flounceit. ‘ Bless me, what is the matter here !’

Deidamia. ‘ Perhaps, madam, you are ignorant that your house is made a brothel.’

Mrs. Flounceit. ‘ Oh my stars ! — a brothel ! — heaven forbid !’

Eutraccia. ‘ My friend tells you true, indeed ; — she is the lawful wife of that gentleman, — they have been married above seven years, — I was present at their wedding, and that woman there is no better than a prostitute.’

Mrs. Flounceit. ‘ Oh the vile slut ! — I wonder Sir David Townly should offer to bring me into this scrape ! — he knows very well I never countenance such doings. — Hussy, get out of my house this minute, or I will send for a constable to carry you to Bridewell !’

In speaking this she advanced towards the mistress of Meroveus, and was about to push her out of the room ; but that gentleman, perceiving her intent, stepp'd
between,

between, and with a visage all inflam'd
with wrath, said,

Meroveus. ' Hold, madam, hold ; —
' this lady has put herself under my pro-
' tection, and I will take care to defend
' her from all insults whatsoever.'

Then turning to Deidamia went on
thus :

Meroveus. ' As for you, madam, —
' you have only expos'd me and undone
' yourself ; — I will never see you more.'

He then took his trembling mistress
by the hand to lead her down stairs ; —
Deidamia, in the utmost agony of spirit,
follow'd, and catching him by the arm,
cry'd out to him,

Deidamia. ' Oh stay, Meroveus ! —
' you will not, sure, add injury to in-
' jury ! — stay, I conjure you, and let
' that woman go !'

Meroveus. ' Stand off, madam, —
' your touch is now more hateful to me
' than ever it was agreeable, so leave you
' to repent the cause.'

This cruel rebuff not making her let go the hold she had taken of him, he threw her off with the greatest contempt, and in an instant was out of the house with his dissolute companion, who was, doubtless, as hasty as himself to get from a place where she could expect nothing but affronts.

Deidamia would have pursued her ungenerous husband, perhaps even into the street, had she not been withheld by Eutraccia, who endeavour'd to convince her how little it would avail to remonstrate any thing to him while he continued in this humour.

Rage had 'till now kept up the spirits of this unhappy lady; but the objects of it being removed, and the power of reflecting return'd, she sunk into a grief no less immoderate, — she wept, — she wrung her hands, — beat her lovely breast, — she swoon'd several times, and in her intervals of sense could only cry out, — 'Cruel, barbarous Meoveus! — 'Unfaithful, ungenerous husband! — 'Good heaven, for what unknown transgression am I become thus miserable!'

Neither

Neither Eutracia nor mrs. Flounceit omitted any thing in their power which they thought might serve to give her consolation; but all they could do was insufficient, and it was some hours before she was enough recover'd even to be carried home: — as soon as she was so, Eutracia went with her in the coach, and I walk'd home, touch'd to the very soul at the sight of her distress.

I have already given the reader my opinion concerning the extreme folly of revealing unwelcome secrets to our friends, so shall forbear adding any farther reflections on that head, and proceed, with as much brevity as the story will admit, to the catastrophe of this unhappy adventure.

I went the next morning to the house of Meroveus, and was convinced, by what I heard the servants say among themselves, that he had not been at home that night, which, indeed, I fear'd would be the case. — On my going up stairs I found Deidamia lying on a couch, in a very dejected melancholy posture; — Eutracia was sitting near her, that lady, it seems, having never quitted her since the unfortunate visit they made together

at mrs. Flounceit's; but as the discourse between them consisted only of complaints on the one side, and persuasions to moderation on the other, I think it not material enough to be inserted.

I had not been in the room above a quarter of an hour before a servant presented a letter to Deidamia,—it was from her husband, and contained these lines:

TO DEIDAMIA.

“MADAM,

“**I** Am determin'd to live easy, which
 “ I am certain is utterly impracticable
 “ for me to do with you, after what
 “ pass'd yesterday between us;—what
 “ I then said in heat of passion, I now
 “ repeat in cool blood, and on the most
 “ mature deliberation.—In fine, an eternal
 “ disunion must be the consequence
 “ of your behaviour, nor should the
 “ tongues of angels dissuade me from this
 “ resolution;—you will do well to bear
 “ it with patience, as the misfortune, if
 “ it be one, has happen'd entirely thro'
 “ your own fault.

“ To leave you no just reason to complain,
 “ I shall order the jointure, settled
 “ on you by our marriage articles, to
 “ be

“ be regularly paid to you as though I
“ were no more ; and shall resign to you
“ all the plate, linnen and household fur-
“ niture, excepting only my books, the
“ India cheft and buroe in my dressing-
“ room.

“ As to our children, — the boy I shall
“ take under my care, — the girl I leave
“ to yours, and shall also add one hun-
“ dred pounds per annum to the above-
“ mention’d jointure, for her mainte-
“ nance and education.

“ Farewel for ever ! — As we no more
“ must meet in love, it will be highly
“ improper, and I think could not be
“ very agreeable to either of us, to meet
“ at all, — I shall therefore refrain, as
“ much as possible, going to any of those
“ places you are accustom’d to frequent,
“ — and hope you will have prudence
“ enough to take the same precaution in
“ avoiding me, — especially when I tell
“ you, that it is the only thing in which
“ you can now oblige

“ Your ill-treated husband,

“ MEROVEUS.

“ P. S I shall send to-morrow for the
“ things I mention’d.”

My fair readers will be the best judges of what Deidamia felt on finding her husband had taken a resolution which could not but give the most mortal stab both to her love and pride; — she paus'd a little after having read it, then gave it to Eutraccia, crying out at the same time with the greatest emphasis,

Deidamia. ‘ See there, my dear Eutraccia, — this wicked husband is the sole aggressor, yet pretends to be the person who has reason to resent !’

That young lady, who was all fire and spirit, could not forbear loading Meroveus with reproaches at the end of every paragraph she read; and when she had finish'd, said to Deidamia,

Eutraccia. ‘ And how, my dear, do you intend to proceed with this base, this most injurious man !’

Deidamia. ‘ Indeed I know not.’

Eutraccia. ‘ If I were in your place, I would write him such an answer as should make his ears tingle.

Deidamia.

Deidamia. ‘ Alas, you know not what
‘ it is to be a wife! — but I will write,
‘ however.’

She then rung her bell for the footman,
and ask’d him whether the person who
brought the letter waited for an answer ;—
to which he reply’d,

Footman. ‘ No, madam, he only bid
‘ me deliver it into your own hands, and
‘ told me my master order’d me to come
‘ to him about two hours hence at
‘ George’s coffee-house, and bring some
‘ linnen with me.

Deidamia. ‘ ’Tis very well ; — but
‘ do not go ’till I have spoke to you
‘ again ; — I have a message to send by
‘ you.’

The fellow assur’d her he would not
fail to obey her commands, and with-
drew ; — after which she sat down to her
escrutoire, took pen and paper, and began
to write in the following terms :

TO MEROVEUS.

“ Cruel and unjust, yet still dear
“ MEROVEUS,

“ IF there needed any other proof than
“ that shameful one I yesterday was
“ witness of, that I am miserable in the
“ total loss of your affection, the letter I
“ have just now received would be a
“ convincing one. — What, — after
“ seven years conjugal tenderness, perfect
“ and sincere on my side, and well
“ dissimulated on yours, can you entertain
“ a thought of parting! — Of tearing a
“ family to pieces which has hitherto
“ lived so respectable in the world! —
“ Must I be doom’d to mourn a husband’s
“ loss even while that husband
“ lives! — Must my son be bred an
“ alien to his mother, and my daughter
“ a stranger to her father! — O think,
“ Meroveus! and if no consideration of
“ me has any weight, let that of your
“ own reputation, and the interest of our
“ children, prevail on you to alter this
“ cruel resolution! — We may, at least,
“ live civilly together, if not with the
“ same fondness as before this accident.
“ — Yet why should we not! — I am
“ willing to meet you more than half
“ way in love. — You cannot deny but
“ you

“ you have wrong’d me in the most tender point : I confess I was too rash in
“ the manner of detecting you ; — we
“ both have been to blame ; — what is
“ done cannot be recall’d ; — but it
“ may be repented of ; — let us exchange
“ forgiveness, and endeavour to forget
“ what is past.

“ There was a time when every little
“ ailment felt by your Deidamia gave
“ equal pain to you ! — Oh can you then
“ throw off at once all pity, all humanity,
“ all remorse, for the agonies you
“ cannot but be sensible my poor tormented heart now labours under ! —
“ No, — ’tis impossible, — reason, honour and good-nature forbid it ! —
“ you will return, accept the pardon I
“ shall with joy bestow ; and, in return,
“ vouchsafe me yours. — Let not my
“ hopes deceive me ; — I am sure they
“ will not, if you will suffer yourself
“ to reflect seriously on the unhappy
“ consequences that must infallibly attend a separation from her who ever
“ has been, and desires to continue,

“ With the greatest sincerity,

“ Your most faithful, and

“ Most affectionate wife,

“ DEIDAMIA.

This

This she communicated to Eutracia, who approved of the former part of it, but highly condemn'd the latter, as thinking it too submissive. — Deidamia, however, was of a different opinion, and the footman coming in soon after to know her commands, she seal'd it up and put it into his hands to deliver to his master, bidding him say withal that she was very much indisposed.

After he was gone, the ladies began to enter into some dispute concerning the authority of a husband and the duty that was expected from a wife ; — but as I could promise myself no farther information by their discourse on this subject; and besides, remembering I had some business of my own to dispatch, I left the place that instant, not without an intention to return thither the next day.

Accordingly I went in the morning, and found poor Deidamia almost drown'd in tears, and walking backwards and forwards in one of her rooms in a distracted posture ; the cause of these fresh agonies I easily perceived by a letter which lay open on the table, — the contents whereof were as follow :

To

TO DEIDAMIA.

“ MADAM,

“ **I** Have been in some debate within
“ my mind, whether to answer your
“ epistle in the manner I now do, or not
“ to answer it at all, would be the most
“ effectual means to prevent your giving
“ me or yourself any future trouble ; —
“ you find I have pursued the former of
“ these methods, and hope you will have
“ discretion enough not to involve me in
“ a second dilemma on this score.

“ Be assured that I did not resolve on
“ a final separation without having well
“ weigh’d the consequences attending it,
“ and find them such as can no way
“ come in competition with my peace of
“ mind, without which life would be a
“ curse, — my bed a bed of thorns, — my
“ table a desert, — my house a hell, and
“ every friend that came to visit, a fury
“ to torment me.

“ See the reverse your jealous folly has
“ occasion’d ; — tax me not, therefore,
“ with ingratitude ; — a thousand times
“ you have confess’d you thought your-
“ self as happy as a woman could be,
“ and it is certain you were truly so. —

“ During

“ During the whole course of the years
“ we lived together you never had the
“ least shadow of a cause to complain of
“ my want either of respect or tender-
“ ness : — If I indulged any pleasures,
“ which I imagin’d would give you dis-
“ quiet, I took care to be very private
“ in them ; — Why then did you suffer
“ yourself to be led by an idle curiosity to
“ pry into secrets which the discovery of
“ must give you pain, and possibly prove
“ the total destruction of that love which
“ once you call’d your greatest blessing ?

“ It is doubtless best for both of us ;
“ as you rightly enough observe, to for-
“ get what is past ; but am far from
“ thinking it can be done by the way
“ you mean : — no, to forget can only
“ be accomplish’d by avoiding each other’s
“ presence, and ceasing all kind of com-
“ munication between us, — I shall there-
“ fore give orders to my servant to
“ charge himself with no letter or message
“ you may think fit to send, and desire
“ you will assure yourself that this is the
“ very last you ever shall receive from
“ me. — Farewel, I wish you all happi-
“ ness in any other sphere of life than
“ that you lately lived in with

“ MEROVEUS.”

After

After having examined this epistle, I listen'd to what pass'd between Eutraccia and Deidamia ; but tho' I staid 'till my Tablets were crowded, I shall forbear inserting the particulars of these ladies discourse, for reasons which will be hereafter explain'd ; and only say in general, that Eutraccia would fain have spirited up her friend to resentment and disdain against a husband whom she thought so unworthy of her ; that Deidamia's love overcame her sex's pride ; and, in fine, that the one argued like a virgin, and the other like an affectionate wife.

Whether Deidamia made any further attempts to move her obdurate husband to a reconciliation I cannot be positive ; but believe she did not, for she retired soon after into the country, whence she is but lately return'd, and, whatever her heart may endure, has very much regain'd her usual composure of countenance and behaviour.





C H A P. VII.

Is somewhat more concise than ordinary, but very much to the purpose, and will be found not the least worthy of any in the book of being regarded with attention.

AS during the course of these lucubrations I have been extremely circumstantial in the reports I have made, the reader has a right to be surpris'd that I omitted the discourse between Deidamia and Eutracia; — I shall therefore, according to my promise, relate my motive for so doing, and flatter myself it is such as will render me perfectly excusable in this point.

Much about the time of the adventure related in the two preceding chapters, I happen'd to be witness of a conversation, which though between different persons, and on a very different occasion, was still on the subject of marriage, the authority of a husband, and the submission expected from a wife; so seem'd to me to have a certain sameness in it which I thought would be rather
tiresome

tirefome than agreeable to the ear, and for that reason left out the former, and made choice of the latter, as of the two the most interesting.

Two sisters, whose characters I present to the public under the names of Flavia and Celemena, have both of them a tolerable share of beauty, but no other qualification, either natural or acquired, that could entitle them to the hope of an elevated station; — yet, by the benevolent aspect of their happy planets, are they become the brides of Alcandor and Thelamont, persons distinguish'd in the world by their birth and fortune, and still more so by the greatness of their merit.

These nuptials, so astonishing to the town, and which happen'd soon after one another, gave me a curiosity to discover, by the help of my Invisibilty, in what fashion the ladies would behave themselves in a sphere of life so altogether new to them, and so little expected, even in their vainest wishes, ever to arrive at.

Flavia was the eldest, and it was to her I made my first visit; — she was in her dressing-room, sitting at her toilet, with her waiting-maid behind her, giving the finishing stroke to her head tyre. —
Thelamont

Thelamont was also there, and stood leaning his elbow on a bureau, with a good deal of dissatisfaction in his countenance, while she kept looking in the glass, and, without turning her head towards him, said,

Flavia. ‘ Prithee, Thelamont, let us
‘ talk no more of this stuff, — I am quite
‘ sick of it ; — I am certainly the best
‘ judge of these things, and it is in vain
‘ to persuade me, for I will not be con-
‘ tradicted.’

Thelamont. ‘ You will not then oblige
‘ me?’

Flavia. ‘ Positively no ; — not when
‘ you intermeddle in these affairs.’

Thelamont. ‘ Well then, madam, I
‘ shall say no more ; but must tell you,
‘ that I thought I had a right to expect
‘ this proof of your complaisance.’

With these words he flung out of the room, and she said to herself,

Flavia. ‘ Pish ; — Was there ever
‘ any thing so teasing ! — Men are mighty
‘ foolish sometimes. — Katherine, bring
‘ me my gauze handkerchief.’

Maid.

Maid. ‘ Oh, ma’am, did not your ladyship say you would wear your new tippet to-day ?’

Flavia. ‘ Hah. — Yes, — no, — it will shew too much of my neck.’

Maid. ‘ Oh, ma’am, — your ladyship cannot shew too much of so beautiful a part.’

Flavia. ‘ That’s true ; — but I scratch’d one of my breasts with a pin this morning.’

Maid. ‘ Oh the ugly pin ; — I wish I knew which it was, that I might crook it quite double and throw it in the fire.’

Just as the maid had express’d her resentment against the weapon that had wounded her mistress, Celemena came into the room, and, after saluting her sister with a freedom suitable to the nearness of their blood and friendship, said to her,

Celemena. ‘ What is the matter, my dear sister ? — you do not look pleas’d to-day.’

Flavia.

Flavia. ‘Umph. — No, — not very well pleas’d; — nor, indeed, much displeas’d.’

Celemena. ‘I met Thelamont going out as I came in, — I thought he seem’d more reserv’d than usual, and in a very ill humour.’

Flavia. ‘If he chuses to be so, it would be a pity any one should attempt to put him out of it.’

Celemena. ‘I hope no misunderstanding has happen’d between you?’

Flavia. ‘No, no, — we understand one another pretty well; — I understand that he would fain pretend to take upon him the government of my actions, — and he understands that I will not let him do it; — so we have exchange’d some piquant words this morning, that’s all.’

Celemena. ‘Have a care, sister, — quarrels in the beginning of marriage promise but little felicity in the continuance of that state.’

Flavia.

Flavia. ‘ That’s true ; — but ’tis very
‘ provoking when a man will needs in-
‘ terfere in things he has no manner of
‘ concern with.’

Celemena. ‘ Pray what was the fubject
‘ of your difpute, — if it be not too great
‘ a fecret ?’

Flavia. ‘ Why you muft know he
‘ wants me to leave off putting any Car-
‘ mine upon my cheeks, — calls it nafty
‘ daubing, and fays I fhould be a thou-
‘ fand times handsomer without it.’

Celemena. ‘ I can fee nothing extraor-
‘ dinary in this ; — there are many men
‘ who have an utter averfion to a woman’s
‘ uſing any art to her complexion.’

Flavia. ‘ They may cry out againſt
‘ it ; but yet I am fure it is frequently
‘ owing to art that they fall ſo much in
‘ love with us ; — a little red upon the
‘ cheeks gives a ſparkle to the eyes, and a
‘ luſtre to all the features, which other-
‘ wiſe would appear flat and languid ; —
‘ but they are ſo fooliſh as not to con-
‘ ſider this ; — they like us as they ſee us
‘ altogether, and though they may be
‘ ſenſible we are painted, never once ima-
‘ gine

‘ gine it is to that necessary auxiliary to
 ‘ beauty that we are chiefly indebted for
 ‘ those charms which attract their admira-
 ‘ tion.’

Celemena. ‘ Suppose it as you say,
 ‘ which however I am far from allowing
 ‘ to be always the case, Thelamont has
 ‘ now seen you such as nature made you,
 ‘ the night wears off that borrow’d lustre,
 ‘ and the morning shews you what you
 ‘ truly are; and if he approves of you
 ‘ in this light, I know of no other person
 ‘ whom you need be studious to please.’

Flavia. ‘ I am of a quite different
 ‘ opinion. — Oh the joy of being gaz’d
 ‘ at, and follow’d by a whole crowded
 ‘ Mall.’

Celemena. ‘ Perhaps to laugh; — but
 ‘ if sincere, a very empty joy, and what
 ‘ a married woman ought not to be too
 ‘ ambitious of.’

Flavia. ‘ So then you would have me
 ‘ comply with my husband’s request?’

Celemena. ‘ Indeed I would advise you
 ‘ to it: — I am sure if Alcandor express’d
 ‘ a desire that I should cut off my hair,
 ‘ and never let it grow again, though it
 ‘ is

‘ is the gift of nature, and bestow’d
‘ upon me as the greatest ornament of our
‘ sex, I would not hesitate one moment
‘ to obey him, but be content to wear
‘ no other head-dress than a close mob
‘ during the whole remainder of my life.’

Flavia. ‘ Then you are a fool.’

Celemena. ‘ In this point I do not
‘ think I am ; — for besides that duty
‘ which the law exacts from every wife
‘ to her husband, there are other reasons
‘ which would oblige me to refuse no-
‘ thing to Alcandor.’

She accompany’d these words with a very significant look, which Flavia observing, order’d her maid, who had been all this time in the room, to withdraw ; and, as soon as she was gone, reply’d to what her sister had said in these terms :

Flavia. ‘ I know what you would say ;
‘ — you would infer, that because Al-
‘ candor and Thelamont married us, with-
‘ out fortunes, we are therefore bound to
‘ be their slaves.’

Celemena. ‘ Not so, — and I dare be-
‘ lieve that neither of them will ever re-
‘ quire any submissions from us, but such

‘ as if we had always been their equals
‘ would very well become us to grant.’

Flavia. ‘ Laird ! — what a bustle you
‘ make about equals ! — Whatever we
‘ were before, marriage has made us now
‘ their equals ; — and for my own part,
‘ I shall never submit to do any thing
‘ Thelamont requires of me, unless my
‘ own inclination happens to concur.’

Celemena. ‘ But do you apprehend
‘ no ill consequences from repeated con-
‘ tradictions?’

Flavia. ‘ Not in the least ; — he
‘ cannot unmarry me again ; — if he
‘ should hate me never so much I must
‘ still be maintain’d as his wife, and should
‘ give myself no pain about any thing
‘ else.’

Celemena. ‘ Oh, sister, I am amaz’d
‘ to hear you talk in this manner ! —
‘ Have you been married but one month,
‘ and can already forget the unhappiness
‘ of our single state, — our scanty and
‘ precarious dependance, — the difficul-
‘ ties we found to supply ourselves with
‘ even the common necessities of life ! —
‘ We made, indeed, a kind of tawdry
‘ shew when we appear’d abroad ; but
‘ how

‘ how was our table pinch’d for it at
‘ home. — Present exigencies, and fu-
‘ ture poverty stared us in the face; —
‘ and is there no love, no gratitude, due
‘ from us to the men who snatch’d us
‘ from that scene of misery, and raised
‘ us to opulence, grandeur and respect!’

Flavia. ‘ Pish; — they married us
‘ to please themselves, not out of pity to
‘ our wants. — But let us have no more
‘ of this dull stuff; — you must go with
‘ me to mrs. Rakelove’s route to-night,
‘ — it is the first she has had, and I
‘ promis’d her to bring all the company
‘ I could.’

Celestina. ‘ Indeed you must excuse
‘ me.’

Flavia. ‘ For what reason?’

Celestina. ‘ My dear Alcandor sups
‘ at home, and I cannot be abroad.’

Flavia. ‘ Heavens! — how strangely
‘ silly you are grown! — your dear Al-
‘ candor sups at home. — What then,
‘ he did not marry you to make you a
‘ cook! — You do not dress his victuals!’

Celemena. ‘ No, but he married me to
‘ make me a companion at his victuals ;
‘ and while he continues to desire my
‘ presence, as I flatter myself he always
‘ will, I shall never form any pretences
‘ to be absent.’

The face of Flavia grew more red than the carmine had made it, on finding in her sister sentiments so opposite to her own ; but was prevented from making any answer by the entrance of a servant, who told her that some ladies were come to visit her, on which she went, accompanied by *Celemena*, into the dining-room, in order to receive them.

Thus ended the conversation I mention’d, and by it the reader may judge which of these two sisters had the greatest share of prudence, best deserved her good fortune, and was most likely to enjoy a long continuance of it.





C H A P. VIII.

Presents the public with the account of an incident which cannot but be deeply affecting to the youth of both sexes, and no less remarkable in its event than any the Author's Invisibleness ever enabled him to discover.

AMONG all the various deceptions which are carried on in this great world, I know of none more cruel, and more liable to be attended with the worst of consequences, than those practised in the affairs of love; — yet it is a crime which passes with impunity, and is scarce censured by any but the persons injured by it and their particular friends and confidants.

Even the ladies, generally speaking, for there is no rule without some exceptions, are so little the friends of each other, that we rarely find them taking up the quarrel of their sex in this point; — on the contrary, they are apt to absolve the vow-breaker, and let the whole blame fall on the believer: — a

man who has triumph'd over the credulity of an hundred women, sees himself not less respected; and sometimes the number of past conquests shall serve him as a recommendation, and be a means of his attaining new ones.

Perjury is deem'd but a venial transgression in this case; — few think that oaths and imprecations, when dictated by the heat of an amorous inclination, tho' formed in the most binding terms, and utter'd in the most solemn manner, are ever register'd in heaven, — according to the words of the poet, who merrily says,

* Jove only laughs when lovers swear.*

This vice, as I must take the liberty to call it, is not however wholly confined to the male sex; I am sorry to observe that those of the other, either thro' pride, vanity, or an inconstancy of nature, are sometimes found guilty of deluding their lovers with fallacious expectations.

I hope also to be forgiven by the more discreet part of womankind, when I say that a propensity to such a behaviour is yet less excusable in them than in the men, as a perfect innocence, a sweetness of disposition.

position, and a simplicity of manners are, or ought to be, the distinguishing characteristics of the fair sex.

A young lady, to whom I shall give the name of Syrenia, was endow'd by nature with every requisite to command love and admiration; — she had the finest eyes in the world, — a very regular set of features, fine hair, and a most delicate complexion; — was tall of stature, well shaped, and had somewhat peculiarly attractive in her air and mien. — Fortune had not been altogether so propitious to her; — through the extravagancies of her parents she was left in possession of a very moderate fortune; — it was, however, entirely at her own disposal, and sufficient, with the good oeconomy she was mistress of, to support her in a very genteel, though not a grand way of life.

Proposals of marriage had often been made to her by several eminent and wealthy citizens; but she rejected them all, and despis'd the thoughts not only of a shop, but also of all other callings and occupations whatever; — ambition was the predominant passion of her soul, and she had vanity enough to think that her birth, her person and accomplishments

were such as might very well compensate for the smallness of her fortune, and entitle her to higher expectations.

She had lived 'till the age of twenty-three without having any offer of the kind she hoped; — but about the expiration of that æra, a young gentleman, call'd Rossano, happening to see her at the house of a relation whom he visited, became violently in love with her, and soon after finding means to get himself introduced, made a declaration of his passion; to which, knowing what and who he was, she gave all the encouragement he could wish, or that was befitting the character of a modest woman.

It would, indeed, have been much to be wonder'd at, if the addresses of Rossano had not been acceptable to her; — he is descended from a very antient and worthy family, has an estate of eight hundred pounds per annum, intirely free from any incumbrance, either mortgage, dowry, or portions to be paid out of it; — his person and behaviour are extremely agreeable; and, to add to all this, has deservedly the reputation of a man of strict honour, and more sobriety than could be expected from his years and the dissoluteness of the present times.

The

The sincerity and warmth of his affection making him very strenuous in his pressures, and the advantages she found in a match with him rendering her complying, they were beginning to talk of ordering articles for their marriage to be drawn up, when an unexpected accident, relating to his estate, obliged him to go immediately into the country.

Though he proposed to stay but a short time, yet he could not think of being deprived of the sight of his beloved Syrenia, even for a few weeks, without an infinity of grief. — She testified little less regret for this enforced separation; — their parting was extremely moving, — each seem'd to endeavour to outvie the other in expressions of tenderness; and the only consolation he had was, the repeated assurances she gave him, that wherever he went he carried her heart along with him.

It is highly probable, that the affection she profess'd for him was at that time perfectly sincere, and that she look'd upon the accident which delay'd the celebration of their nuptials as no inconsiderable misfortune to her; but whatever chagrin she might feel at first on this ac-

count, it was very soon dissipated, and gave way to ideas of a far different nature.

The motive which brought about so sudden, and so extraordinary a change in her sentiments, I shall relate, as I was afterwards fully inform'd of it, by the several conversations I was present at by the help of my Invisibilty.

She was one morning in the Park with a lady of her acquaintance call'd Delia, where they were met and join'd by a young officer, brother to Delia, and a gentleman who was with him, and equally a stranger to both the ladies, but behaved towards them with the greatest respect and politeness. — They walk'd two or three turns up and down the Mall, after which the gentlemen took their leave, and Syrenia and Delia went to their respective habitations, without thinking any more of what had pass'd during their promenade.

Little, indeed, could either of them apprehend the consequences of this adventure; — but the next day, pretty early in the forenoon, Syrenia was surpris'd with a visit from Delia, who came
running

running into her apartment without any ceremony; — crying out as she enter'd;

Delia. ' Joy to you, my dear; —
' I come to wish you joy !'

Syrenia. ' Of what ! — for I see no
' other subject of joy than what I always
' feel on seeing you.'

Delia. ' Me ! — no, no, — a thou-
' sand such as me are quite out of the
' question ; — but I have the pleasure to
' congratulate you on the greatest con-
' quest your beauty ever made, or per-
' haps ever can make !'

Syrenia. ' You are got into a vein of
' raillery this morning.'

Delia. ' No, upon my honour I never
' was more serious. — Do you not re-
' member the fine gentleman that was
' with my brother yesterday in the Mall ?'

Syrenia. ' Yes ; — you know they
' join'd company with us.'

Delia. ' His name is Leontine ; —
' he is the eldest son of his father, and
' heir apparent to three thousand pounds
' a year : — you saw his person ; — for

‘ my part, I think nothing can be more agreeable; and my brother tells me he is the most accomplish’d man he ever knew.’

Syrenia. ‘ Well, — and what is all this to me?’

Delia. ‘ It is all to you. — It seems he saw you last Sunday at Westminster-Abbey, fell violently in love with you, and would have follow’d to have seen where you lived, but was prevented by some gentlemen of his acquaintance, who that instant laid hold of him and forced him along with them.’

Syrenia. ‘ ’Tis possible such a one might be there; but I did not take any notice of him.’

Delia. ‘ That may be, but he took so much of you as not to be able to sleep ever since.’

Syrenia. ‘ Very romantic, truly. — But pray how came you so well acquainted with the secrets of his heart, who yesterday seem’d an utter stranger to his person?’

Delia.

Delia. ‘ I will tell you the whole
‘ affair, as my brother last night came
‘ and inform’d me of it.— After they had
‘ left us they went and dined together at
‘ a tavern : — Leontine ask’d a thousand
‘ questions concerning your family, —
‘ your fortune, and your character ; —
‘ all which, you may be sure, were an-
‘ swer’d not to your disadvantage : — he
‘ then made my brother the confidante of
‘ the passion you had inspir’d him with,
‘ and intreated him to use his interest
‘ with me, as he found I was pretty in-
‘ timate with you, to engage me to in-
‘ troduce him to you, which I have
‘ faithfully promised to do.’

Syrenia. ‘ What without my consent ?’

Delia. ‘ I hoped to be forgiven ; —
‘ such an offer, my dear, is not to be re-
‘ jected.’

Syrenia. ‘ It is much beyond my ex-
‘ pectations, I confess ; — but the dispa-
‘ rity between our fortunes is too great.’

Delia. ‘ If he thinks your person an
‘ equivalent, it is not your business to
‘ make objections.

Syrenia.

Syrenia. 'That is true; — and if I
' could flatter myself he were really sin-
' cere: — but I will consider on it.'

Delia. 'It will be time enough for
' you to consider when you have heard
' what he has to say; for I have pro-
' mised to bring you together this even-
' ing.'

Syrenia. 'This evening! — as how!'

Delia. 'As thus: — I invite you to
' sup with me to-night, — my brother
' and Leontine shall come in as if by ac-
' cident; — neither your pride nor your
' modesty has any thing to scruple; for
' I assure you I will not let even my
' brother know that I have previously
' acquainted you with any thing of the
' matter.'

Syrenia. 'Well, — on that condition
' I will come.'

Delia. 'Indeed, my dear, I should
' think you very much to blame to turn
' your back on a prospect so highly ad-
' vantageous; — for though you are well
' born, — well accomplish'd, — are hand-
' some, and have some fortune of your
' own,

‘ own, — yet the three first of these, as
‘ men now think of marriage, weigh
‘ but lightly against what they call the
‘ incumbrance of a wife; — and as to
‘ the latter, you know, it will not en-
‘ title you to a coach and six.’

Syrenia. ‘ The justice of what you say
‘ cannot be denied; — but I would do
‘ nothing that should occasion my cha-
‘ racter being call’d in question, nor
‘ would seem too forward, though to
‘ promote the highest expectations; —
‘ therefore, my dear Delia, remember I
‘ depend on your prudence.’

Delia. ‘ In this you safely may; — I
‘ know too well what is owing to my
‘ sex, and the cruel aspersions men are
‘ apt to throw on our most innocent free-
‘ doms, not to be extremely cautious in
‘ avoiding giving the least room for
‘ censure.’

Syrenia. ‘ Indeed, my dear, my ob-
‘ servation on your own conduct ought
‘ to put to silence all my doubts on that
‘ score; and whatever is the event of
‘ this affair, I shall always gratefully ac-
‘ knowledge your good wishes towards
‘ me.’

Delia.

Delia. ‘ If it succeeds I shall be a
 ‘ sharer in your good fortune, as nothing
 ‘ gives me a more sensible satisfaction
 ‘ than to have it in my power to con-
 ‘ tribute to the happiness of my friends :
 ‘ — but I must leave you, — I promis’d
 ‘ to let my brother know whether you
 ‘ could come or not, that he may ap-
 ‘ prise Leontine of it.’

The good-natur’d Delia went away in speaking these words ; but I could easily perceive, by the glow on Syrenia’s cheeks, how much she was transported with the purpose of her visit ; — and was yet more confirm’d of her being so by some disjointed soliloquies she utter’d when she thought there was no witness of what she said.

Syrenia. ‘ Three thousand pounds a
 ‘ year, and so fine a gentleman as Leon-
 ‘ tine ! — so handsome, — so polite, —
 ‘ so every thing that is agreeable ! — If
 ‘ he is as sincere as Delia imagines him to
 ‘ be, I shall have cause to bless the hour
 ‘ I went to Westminster-Abbey ; — or
 ‘ rather, that which carried me to the
 ‘ Park yesterday, without which he
 ‘ might never have known who I was,
 ‘ or where to find me, and should have
 ‘ lost

‘lost all the advantage my good stars
‘seem to have decreed for me!’

Here she ceas’d to speak, other sort of
emotions rising in her mind, to which
she gave a loose in this exclamation :

Syrenia. ‘It was an unlucky thing I
‘went so far with Rossano, — the poor
‘man loves me to distraction, — he will
‘certainly break his heart when he finds
‘I have forsaken him ; — and, it may be,
‘reproach me as the occasion of his
‘death.’

On this her countenance seem’d a little
disconcerted ; but it soon wore off, and
after a short pause went on thus :

Syrenia. ‘I am glad, however, that
‘no contract has pass’d between us ; the
‘encouragement I gave his passion, and
‘the verbal promises I made him, need be
‘no impediment to my accepting a better
‘offer. — It will be prudence in me,
‘however, not to throw him off, nor give
‘him any room to suspect I have less
‘affection for him than I had, ’till I am
‘well assured that Leontine is in earnest.’

This was enough to shew me the prin-
ciple and disposition of Syrenia, both
which,

which, indeed, were so little pleasing to me, that I had not patience to stay with her any longer, but quitted her apartment with a contempt, which could she have been sensible of, would no doubt have given her some mortification.

I made one of the company that night at Delia's however; but as it could not be expected, that in a meeting which was to pass for casual, there should be any conversation except on general topics, I reap'd no other benefit by being present, than to be convinced that Leontine, by the glances he took every opportunity of casting at Syrenia, was indeed very much enamour'd, and that she spared no pains to make him more so.

The next day he went with the brother of Delia to visit her, and the succeeding one took the liberty of going thither alone and made a declaration of his passion, which she, having well prepared herself with answers, received in such a manner as neither to reject, nor with too much readiness encourage.

The ice once broke, he prosecuted his addresses with so much vigour and assiduity, that she thought it would be no breach of modesty to give him room to hope.

hope he was not altogether indifferent to her ; — by degrees, therefore, she became more kind on every visit he made, but did it with caution and reserve, neither by her looks or words forfeiting that character of discretion she so much valued herself upon, — dropping only some hints, as if forced from her, from a fund of tenderness within, which she would fain endeavour to conceal, but had not the power of doing it.

Thus artful in appearing artless, Leontine, though a man of very good sense and penetration, never once suspected she was any other than such as she affected to be, — plain, simple, generous, and incapable of disguising her sentiments.

It is certain, indeed, that her natural cunning was greatly assisted how to proceed on this occasion, by the intelligence she daily received from Delia, to whose brother Leontine made no scruple of disburthening all that pass'd in his heart in relation to his passion for Syrenia.

From this faithful friend she learn'd, that tho' it was not to be doubted but that Leontine was as much in love with her as man could be, yet the great respect and reverence he had for his father would
not

not permit him to think of venturing on a thing of so much consequence as marriage, without having first obtain'd his consent, and approbation of the woman he made choice of for a wife; and that to this end he had already sent two letters to his father, who lived entirely in the country; but the answers he received not being quite so satisfactory as he wish'd, he had wrote a third, dictated in the most passionate and pressing terms.

She could not avoid being under some very uneasy apprehensions on the score of this old gentleman, and also fear'd that the passion Leontine was inspired with might not of itself be strong enough to get the better of that obedience owing from him to a father's will, — she therefore wish'd to interest his good-nature and generosity in her favour, and judged that the surest way to secure his affection was to make him confident of her's.

But the means of accomplishing this was a difficulty she knew not presently how to get over; — to confess by word of mouth she loved him seem'd too great a breach of modesty, especially as his courtship to her had not yet been of any long continuance; and to get him inform'd of it by Delia, she thought would be

be the same thing, as he would doubtless imagine it was not done without her privacy and consent; — besides, she knew not whether that lady would approve of such a step. — Being one day desir'd by him to favour him with a tune on her spinnet, she entertain'd him with an air out of the Opera of Arsinoe, the first in the Italian taste ever exhibited on the English stage, and, in my opinion, has been exceeded by none that have come after it. — The words she sung to her instrument were these :

- ‘ Wanton zephir softly blowing,
- ‘ Watching, catching, whispering, going,
- ‘ Bear in sighs my soul away :
- ‘ Tell Ormondo what I feel,
- ‘ Tell him how his chains I wear,
- ‘ Tell him all my grief and care ;
- ‘ Gently stealing,
- ‘ And revealing,
- ‘ More of love than I can say.’

But though Leontine extoll'd both the music and the voice which gave it utterance, yet he shew'd no indication of imagining she had any design of flattering his passion in the choice she made of this song ; — this making her perceive she must be more explicit, her fertile invention soon presented her with a stratagem, which

which pleasing her fancy at the same time that it promis'd the success she aim'd it, she put into immediate execution. — It was this :

Having a natural talent for poetry she sat down at her escrutore, took pen, ink and paper, and without being at the pains of much study wrote the following lines :

The breathings of a love-sick heart.

- Wit, manly beauty, every grace com-
 • bine,
- To deck the youth I love with charms
 • divine.
- But ah ! — my too uncautious heart take
 • heed,
- Nor with gay hopes the growing passion
 • feed ;
- Wealth's the chief idol that mankind
 • adore,
- The sov'reign power they all fall down
 • before,
- My niggard fortune does that charm
 • deny,
- And love alone will not its wants supply ;
- Let me then guard each av'nue to my
 • breast,
- And bar all entrance to this dangerous
 • guest ;

Left

- Left by indulging the presumptuous
• flame,
- I fall the victim of despair and shame.
- But, oh 'tis vain! — the god of love
• conspires,
- To aid my Leontine with all his fires,
- Speaks in his voice and sparkles in his
• eyes,
- And what he sweetly forces, justifies.
- 'Tis sure determin'd in the book of fate,
- I must adore, ev'n tho' he proves un-
• grate.

This paper, which she wanted him to believe was a sincere confession of the whole secret of her soul, she contrived should fall into his hands in such a manner as should have too much the appearance of chance to be liable to any suspicion of design.

At his next visit, her maid being well instructed by her how to act, ran hastily into the room, and told her that the man whom she had order'd to come for his money was below. — Syrenia affected not to understand what she meant, and cry'd,

Syrenia. • What man! — what money!

Maid.

Maid. ‘ Mr. Shapely, madam, — your
‘ staymaker.’

Syrenia. ‘ Oh, — now I remember. I
‘ did bid him come for his money ; — he
‘ takes a strange unseasonable time ; —
‘ people should always come in a morn-
‘ ing on these affairs ; — however I’ll see
‘ if I can find his bill, — and do you
‘ carry a pen and ink into the parlour,
‘ that he may write me a receipt on the
‘ back of it.’

On this the maid withdrew, and Syrenia open’d a little desk that stood in the dining-room, and beginning to tumble over some writings she had there, as in search of the pretended bill, dexterously slipp’d from among the rest the paper which contain’d the above recited verses, and let it fall to the ground without seeming to observe that any thing was dropp’d ; — then saying she had found what she had look’d for, — shut up the desk in a great hurry, — begg’d Leontine would excuse her absence for a few moments, and went down stairs.

She was no sooner gone, than Leontine happening to cast his eyes that way saw the paper, and took it up, as I suppose,
with

with no other intention than to deliver it to Syrenia when she should return ; but it being purposely folded in such a manner that part of the writing appear'd on the outside,— he must have been strangely incurious indeed, if seeing it a poem, and wrote in his mistress's hand, he had forbore examining it.

Never was any transport more visible than in the countenance of Leontine while reading these delusive stanzas ; — his look put me in mind of the poet's words :

- ' Kindness has resistless charms,
- ' All things else but faintly warms ;
- ' It gilds the lover's servile chain,
- ' And makes the slave grow pleas'd
' and vain.'

Tho' by the particulars I have been repeating, the reader will easily suppose I was both an eye and an ear witness of them, yet it is utterly impossible for me to describe either the looks or attitude of the one or the other, in the joyous surprise of finding himself, as he imagin'd, thus extremely dear to the only woman to whom he wish'd to be so.

She took care to stay so long below as to give him time to read over, more than
Vol. IV. H once,

once, what she intended for his perusal it was still in his hands when she return'd, but she seem'd to take no notice of it, and was beginning to apologize for her absence by laying the blame on the impertinence of her staymaker; but Leontine, with a gesture full of rapture, interrupted her, — saying,

Leontine. ‘ O, madam, — you must
 • allow me to become an advocate for this
 • honest tradesman, since by his fortunate
 • detaining you I am made the happiest
 • of mankind.

To this, Syrenia affecting not to comprehend the meaning of what he said, reply'd with a smile,

Syrenia. ‘ What riddle in this you
 • are about to pose me with? — I am the
 • dullest creature in the world at giving a
 • solution to these things.’

Leontine. ‘ This paper, madam, waisted
 • to me by the god of love’s own hand,
 • has given me the wish’d-for opportunity
 • of proving myself less unworthy of the
 • blessing I aspire to, than your doubts
 • suggest. — No, my charming Syrenia,
 • not all the treasures in the world could
 • add one ray of lustre to the graces of
 • your

‘ your mind and person, — ’tis those
‘ alone I covet to enjoy, and in possessing
‘ them shall be more rich than in possess-
‘ ing both the Indies.’

While he was speaking Syrenia cast her eyes upon the paper and blush’d excessively ; — partly perhaps thro’ shame, but more thro’ the pleasure which diffused itself thro’ all her veins, on perceiving, by the behaviour of Leontine, how well the success of her plot had answer’d to the intention of it.

The well dissembled confusion she was in, was an excuse for her not speaking, and Leontine went on to assure her, in the most tender terms, that no consideration whatever should have the power to oblige him to withdraw that firm affection he now vow’d to her, and that he hop’d a very little time would put a final period to all her apprehensions on that score.

What farther conversation pass’d between them at this time I shall forbear to repeat, as it may be easily guess’d at ; and proceed to the conduct of Syrenia in regard to her other lover, who the reader may think I have too long neglected.

The business which call'd Rossano into the country detain'd him there much longer than he had expected, and an unlucky fall from his horse, the very day before he intended to set out for London, occasioned a second delay to his journey; — this absence of his gave Syrenia a full opportunity of entertaining her new lover, tho' she received every post a letter from the former, all which she did not fail to answer with that tenderness which might be expected from a woman who had promised to be his wife; still keeping close to her first maxim, not to give any umbrage to the one 'till she was perfectly secure of the other.

All impediments, however, being at last removed, that gentleman arriv'd in town on the same day that Syrenia and Leontine were engag'd in the manner above recited; — his impatience to see his beloved mistress carried him immediately to her lodgings, — he came while his rival was with her; but her maid, well knowing how improper it was that they should meet, told him her lady was abroad, — on which he went away, saying he would return in the evening, as he knew she was not accusom'd to stay late from home.

He

He was doubtless much disappointed, but not at all suspicious of the cause, 'till having cross'd the street he happen'd to cast his eyes back upon the house, either by chance, or possibly through fondness of the place which contain'd the idol of his wishes, — Syrenia was sitting in the window and Leontine very near to her : — Rossano had a full view of both ; but Syrenia was too earnest in discourse to observe him, tho' he stood motionless on the spot where he was for some minutes. — It seem'd not strange to him that a gentleman should be with her, tho' he could find no way to account why he should be denied access to her but one, which stung him to the soul.

He was more than once tempted by his jealousy, as I afterwards discover'd, to return and demand of the maid a reason for his having been refused admittance ; but second thoughts prevail'd, and he went home to deliberate how it would best become him to behave in such a circumstance.

Leontine staid supper, and Syrenia stepping out of the room to give some necessary orders to her maid, was inform'd by her that Rossano had been there and

the message he had left : — this greatly disconcerted her ; but after a little pause she recover'd herself enough to give these directions :

Syrenia. ‘ This is very unlucky, —
‘ *Leontine* will probably stay late ; —
‘ you must therefore tell *Rossano* that I
‘ am not yet come home, — and that
‘ you believe I am gone to the play.’

The maid punctually obeying these directions, *Rossano* only reply'd, — that since it had happen'd so, he would do himself the honour to breakfast with her to-day the next morning, — and then departed seemingly well satisfied.

But tho' he forbore giving any indications of his jealousy to this girl, he doubted not but that the second repulse was owing to the same motive the first had been ; — resolving, however, to be more fully convinced, he posted his servant, whom he had brought with him for that purpose, under a lamp a few doors from the house where *Syrenia* lodged, charging him to observe carefully who came in or out, and if he saw a gentleman in black velvet and a bag wig, to follow him wherever he went, find out
his

his name if possible, and bring him an exact account.

Leontine was so much charm'd with the discovery he had made of Syrenia's affection, that he quitted her apartment not 'till the night was very far advanced. — Rossano's servant, however, kept close to his stand, 'till a chair being call'd, he saw the gentleman his master had described go into it; — he follow'd, and as soon as Leontine had enter'd the house where he lodg'd, and the door was shut, ask'd the chairmen if they knew the gentleman they had carried; but they answering in the negative, and he seeing no house open where he might enquire, could learn nothing farther that night; but early the next morning he went again, and had the address to find out all the particulars that could be expected from him.

Rossano was now assur'd not only that he had a rival, but also a rival highly favour'd by his mistress: — the distraction he was in may easily be conceived; but he dissembled it on his first approach to Syrenia, whom he did not fail to visit the next morning, as he had told her maid.

Syrenia, before she was inform'd of it, knew very well, that missing seeing her that night, he would not let another day pass over without coming, had the artifice to tell Leontine she was obliged to go some few miles out of town to see a relation who she heard was dangerously ill.

I am not a person who live without having some business in the world, yet there are very few things of consequence enough to me to have detain'd me from being a witness of what pass'd in this interview between Rossano and Syrenia, and shall present my readers with it as recorded in my faithful Tablets.

Syrenia no sooner heard he was there than she ran to the top of the stair-case to receive him, and with the greatest shew of tenderness saluted him in these terms :

Syrenia. ' My dear Rossano, how griev'd have I been for losing the sight of you last night, after having been so long an age of time deprived of it !'

Rossano. ' The misfortune, beautiful Syrenia, was wholly mine ; for while I moan'd your absence you doubtless found some-

‘ something to amuse and entertain you.
‘ — I heard you were at the play.’

Syrenia. ‘ I was so ; — but what could
‘ I find there to compensate for the satis-
‘ faction I mis’d by being so unluckily
‘ from home !’

Rossano. ‘ Were you at Covent-Garden ?’

Syrenia. ‘ No ; — at Drury-Lane. —
‘ But why do you ask ?’

Rossano. ‘ Only for a foolish fancy.’

Syrenia. ‘ Nay, I may answer my-
‘ self that question. — I will lay my life
‘ you went in search of me ; — but I
‘ chose to go in a deshabille, and sat on
‘ the back bench in Burton’s box ; — so
‘ it was impossible for you to see me.’

Rossano. ‘ Not so impossible as you
‘ imagine, madam : — but I had no need
‘ to go to either of the Theatres, — the
‘ object I so much languish’d to behold
‘ presented itself to me without my taking
‘ any pains.’

These words occasion’d a visible
change in her countenance, — she blush’d
excessively, — cast her eyes upon the
H 5 ground.

ground, and had not power to lift them up while she said only,

Syrenia. ‘What is it you mean?’

Rossano. ‘There needs no explanation; — the disorder you in vain endeavour to conceal shews but too much how well you are acquainted with my meaning. — Ah, Syrenia, — Syrenia, — how did I once flatter myself with an assurance that your heart was mine, inviolably mine; but now I find my absence has been fatal to me!’

Syrenia. ‘Forbear to talk thus; — these suspicions are unjust to me, and cruel to yourself..

Rossano. ‘Why then was I last night turn’d from your door! — Why twice repuls’d, while my more happy rival was allow’d the privilege of entertaining you ’till midnight!’

Syrenia. ‘Who tells you this?’

Rossano. ‘My own eyes, madam, were my first intelligencers, — I saw you at that window, — saw also your new favourite, and easily judg’d by both your attitudes what was the subject

‘ of your conversation ; — as to the rest,
‘ I was inform’d of it by means to which
‘ I afterwards had recourse.’

The false Syrenia was now absolutely confounded, — there was no giving the eye to ocular demonstration as to the first part of Rossano’s charge against her, but she endeavour’d to avoid the latter, by saying

Syrenia. ‘ Well, sir, I own I was at
‘ home, and had order’d myself to be
‘ denied ; but expected not your coming,
‘ or knew you had been here ’till after
‘ you were gone : — as for the gentleman you saw with me, ’tis your own
‘ jealous fancy alone that makes you regard him in the light of a lover.’

Rossano. ‘ I grant you did not expect
‘ me ; but as your servant is no stranger
‘ to the footing we are upon, she would
‘ certainly have look’d on me as an exception to the general order you had
‘ given, if she had not known I was no
‘ proper person to join in the company
‘ you had above : — besides, you cannot
‘ plead ignorance of my second visit,
‘ yet I was again turn’d back.’

Syrenia. ‘ You wrong me ; — I protest I never heard of your being here
 ‘ till I was going to bed ; — think no
 ‘ more therefore of such idle stuff, — this is
 ‘ not discourse for two people who love,
 ‘ and have so long been absent from each
 ‘ other.’

Rossano. Ah, *Syrenia* ! — I wish the
 ‘ treatment I have received would allow
 ‘ me to entertain you with any other ; —
 ‘ there was a time when I could be as
 ‘ gay, perhaps, as he who now supplants
 ‘ me in your esteem.’

Syrenia. ‘ Still harping on the same
 ‘ string ; — remember what the poet says :

‘ No signs of love in jealous men re-
 ‘ mains,
 ‘ But that which sick men have of life,
 ‘ their pains.’

She had just done repeating these lines when the tea equipage was brought in for breakfast, and *Rossano*, who I could perceive by his countenance was little pleased with the trifling answers she had made to his reproaches, rose up to take his leave, on which she suddenly catch’d hold of his hand, and with a well counterfeited

terfeited tenderness in her voice and eyes,
said to him,

Syrenia. ‘ You will not go and leave
me in this humour.’

Rossano. ‘ Indeed I must ; — I have
this moment thought of a business that
requires immediate dispatch.’

Syrenia. ‘ Shall I then see you in the
afternoon ?’

Rossano. ‘ I cannot promise.’

He was half way down stairs while
speaking these last words, and though she
follow’d him two or three steps, and call’d
to him to stay, he turn’d not, nor even
look’d back upon her, but went hastily
out of the house.

I was resolved to see what was his in-
tent, and accompanied him to the house
of that kinswoman where he had first seen
Syrenia ; — he was beginning to tell her
what cause of complaint he had against
that lady, but she stopp’d his mouth by
saying she was already acquainted with
every thing he had to relate, and then
proceeded to inform him, that having a
friend who lived opposite to Syrenia, she
had

had learn'd that she entertain'd a new lover, who visited her almost every day, and that the neighbourhood believed it would very shortly be a match.

Rossano went from this relation to his his own lodgings, where having vented some part of his rage in exclamations on the levity and ingratitude of womankind, he sat down and wrote the following lines:

TO LEONTINE.

“ S I R,

“ **Y**OU have endeavour'd to supplant
 “ me in the affection of the woman
 “ I loved and am engag'd to marry ; —
 “ I need not tell you I mean Syrenia ; —
 “ I expect therefore you will either resign
 “ all pretensions to her under your own
 “ hand, or give such satisfaction as one
 “ gentleman has a right to demand from
 “ another in these cases. : — I shall at-
 “ tend you behind Montague-house at
 “ eight to-morrow morning, 'till when,

“ Yours,

“ ROSSANO.

This he sent immediately to Leontine, who happening to be at home return'd an answer by the bearer in these terms :

To

TO ROSSANO.

“ S I R,

“ **I** Own myself a lover of Syrenia,
“ but know nothing of your courtship
“ to her, nor will believe she is under
“ any engagement of the nature you
“ mention, either to you or any other
“ man; and shall be so far from resign-
“ ing my pretensions, that I will defend
“ them to the last moment of my life;
“ you may therefore rely on my meeting
“ you at the time and place appointed.

“ Yours,

“ LEONTINE.

Rossano had scarce finish'd reading this
billet when a porter brought him a letter
from Syrenia, the contents whereof were
these:

TO ROSSANO.

“ My very dear ROSSANO,

“ **Y**OUR behaviour this morning has
“ thrown me into disquiets which
“ might excite compassion in a heart less
“ devoted to me than I flatter'd myself
“ yours was; — I thought the love be-
“ tween us was establish'd on a more
“ solid

“ solid basis than to be shook by every
 “ puff of jealous caprice ; — I doubt not
 “ but to convince you that yours is no
 “ other. — If this is so lucky as to find you
 “ at home, or you receive it time enough,
 “ I beg to see you this evening ; for I
 “ cannot bear you should pass another
 “ night in such cruel suspicions of

“ Your faithfully affectionate

“ SYRENIA.”

• I perceived he was in some dilemma on
 reading this billet ; — he paus’d a while,
 — then said,

Rossano. ‘ My Compliments to the
 ‘ lady, and — ’

Then paus’d again, and at last cry’d,

Rossano. “ Tell her I am engag’d this
 “ day, but will wait on her to-morrow.”

Various reflections seem’d now rolling
 in the mind of this much abus’d lover ;
 but I left him in them, and contented my-
 self with going the next morning to the
 field of battle, in order to see how the
 combatants would behave ; — they were
 both so punctual to the time that it is
 hard to say which of them was first within
 the

the lifts. — Rossano, however, having some idea of Leontine, as he had seen him through Syrenia's window, advanced towards him, and said,

Rossano. ‘ I guess, sir, you are the gentleman I invited hither?’

Leontine. ‘ You are not deceived, sir, if your name be Rossano.’

Rossano. ‘ The same, sir.’

Leontine. ‘ Mine then is Leontine, and you find me ready to maintain my pretensions to the fair Syrenia.’

Rossano. ‘ And I to assert that right which a long series of encouraged courtship and mutual vows have given me.’

Leontine. ‘ This then is the way we must dispute the prize.’

Both their swords were already drawn, and Rossano, either through superior skill or better fortune, gave his antagonist a slight wound in the side on the first pass, and on the second a much deeper on the right arm, which occasioning a great effusion of blood, he was obliged to drop his sword, on which the other, imagining the
the

the mischief to be greater than it really prov'd, stepp'd hastily towards him with these words :

Rossano. ' Sir, Though I might expect the justice of my cause would give me some advantage over you, I should be extremely sorry to find it attended with any bad effects, — I beg therefore, as there are scarce any chairs abroad so early, you will give me leave to support you to my lodgings, which are very near, and where you may have immediate assistance.'

Leontine accepted the offer, — a surgeon was immediately call'd, and his cloaths stripp'd off in order to have his wounds examined ; — that on his side was not at all deep, and that on his arm happening only among a knot of veins, required little more than a tight bandage for its cure : — he was advis'd, however, to drink some mull'd wine, and then endeavour to compose himself to sleep for a few hours. — Rossano, with a great deal of humanity and politeness, took care to see this injunction perform'd, and on Leontine's requesting it, sent to his lodgings for fresh cloaths and linnen for him to put on when he should awake.

As Roffano was retiring to leave his guest to that repose which was thought needful for him, he saw a paper lying on the floor, which he took up, not knowing but it was something belonging to himself; — but how great was his amazement when he found what it contain'd, — this being the very verses Syrenia had wrote on Leontine, and had fortuitously been shook out of that gentleman's pocket as his cloaths were hastily thrown to the other side of the room.

'Till now, the love he had bore Syrenia kept him from entertaining any worse opinion of her conduct, than that it was the vanity incident to her sex which alone had made her encourage the addresses of Leontine; but this plain proof of her inconstancy gave a sudden turn to his sentiments, and changed at once all the tenderness he ever had for her into contempt and hatred.

Leontine also had some uneasy thoughts on the score of Syrenia; — Roffano seem'd to him to be a man of too much honour to assert a falshood, and began to fear that himself had been deceived in his opinion of that lady's sincerity; — being less inclined to sleep than to be satisfied in

in this point, he rung a bell which hung by the bedside, on which Rossano, who was no farther than the next room, went in and ask'd how he did; — to which he reply'd,

Leontine. ‘ So well that I think I need
‘ lie here no longer than ’till my man
‘ brings me some clean apparel, that I
‘ may rise with decency; — in the mean
‘ time, sir, should take it as a favour that
‘ you would let me know how far I have
‘ been guilty of injustice to you in regard
‘ of Syrenia: — in your billet to me you
‘ mention an engagement; — if it be so
‘ I was perfectly ignorant of it, and at
‘ that time imagin’d I had strong reasons
‘ for disbelieving, — otherwise I do assure
‘ you, sir, not all my passion for that
‘ lady should have made me attempt to
‘ disunite your loves.’

Rossano. ‘ Though it may seem un-
‘ generous to boast a lady’s favours, as I
‘ have no other way to justify my rash
‘ proceedings towards you, be pleased to
‘ read that letter :’

In speaking this he presented to Leontine the letter he had received from Syrenia the day before, which that gentleman had
no

no sooner look'd over than he cry'd out
with the greatest surprise,

Leontine. ' Good heaven ! — Why
' this was dated but yesterday !'

Rossano. ' Yes, sir, and wrote on ac-
' count of my testifying some jealousy on
' your being with her the evening be-
' fore ; — but I have now done with that
' idle passion, and can now resign my
' claim with as much calmness as I would
' lately have maintain'd it with eager-
' ness.'

Leontine. ' Is it possible you can be
' in earnest ?'

Rossano. ' Were Syrenia more beau-
' tiful, than she is, the enjoyment of her
' person without her heart could give no
' happiness ; and had this paper, which
' accidentally fell from your pocket in
' the hurry this morning, happen'd sooner
' into my hands, I should not have pro-
' ceeded as I have done.'

In speaking this he gave Leontine the
paper he had taken up ; — the other im-
mediately saw what it was, and receiving
it with a smile made this reply :

Leontine.

Leontine. ' I thank you, sir ; but I assure you I am not at all vain of these verses, as they serve only to prove that the lady was willing to be double arm'd, and in case one lover should fail, to be provided with another.'

After this they began to enter into a very free discussion on the conduct of Syrenia towards them both ; and there now appear'd so much deceit, — mean artifice, — ingratitude and perfidy, as well to the one as to the other, that it is hard to say which of them entertain'd the most despicable notions of her : — in fine, they agreed to resent the impositions she had practis'd on them in such a manner as some of my fair readers, how greatly soever they may condemn Syrenia, will not perhaps easily absolve them for.

The servant of Leontine being arriv'd with the things his master had order'd to be brought, that gentleman rose and got himself dress'd, and Rossano in the mean time employ'd himself in gathering up all the letters he had received from Syrenia, and made them up in a large packet, and wrote on the cover,

Amo-

‘ Amorous billets from a lady, of a very
‘ extraordinary character.’

They went in two chairs to the house where Syrenia lodged, and the door being open’d rush’d up stairs without any ceremony, and even into the dining-room where she was sitting. — Leontine was the first that enter’d ; she rose to receive him ; but seeing his arm in a scarf, cry’d out,

Syrenia. ‘ Oh, sir, what accident has
‘ befallen you !’

Leontine. ‘ No unlucky one, madam ;
‘ I have, indeed, received two slight
‘ wounds on your account ; but I bless
‘ the hand that gave them, since they
‘ have been the means of curing one of a
‘ more dangerous nature in my heart.’

She had no time to ask what he meant by these words, — Rossano was now in the room, and rejoined to what the other had said in this manner :

Rossano. ‘ My heart is also in a pretty
‘ good condition too ; — for though I
‘ have lost a mistress, I have gain’d a
‘ friend, from whom I have reason to
‘ hope

‘ hope more sincerity. — You see, madam, two persons together, whom
‘ doubtless you wish’d to keep separate,
‘ while we had separate interests; but we
‘ have now agreed, and as we lately
‘ join’d to persecute you with our addresses,
‘ now join in the resolution of troubling you no more.’

Leontine. ‘ I have nothing to add, madam, to what my friend has delivered, but to restore this paper, which
‘ can be of no use to me, and may be of some to you, as change but the name
‘ the picture may suit some happier man.’

Rossano. ‘ And I return those letters you have from time to time favour’d me with.’

He then laid down the packet, at the same time Leontine did the verses, upon a table. — Syrenia was all this while immoveable as a statue, — she had found from their first entrance that they had compared notes, — that she was exposed, — her arts laid open, and her hopes irrecoverably lost with both; — fain she would have spoke but had not power; and all she could utter at last was,

Syrenia.

Syrenia. ‘Mighty well; — so then I
‘am to be insulted.’

Rossano. ‘No, madam, your birth
‘and beauty are your protection; and
‘had your mind been equal to either,
‘neither of us, I believe, would have
‘broke his chain, or even wish’d to re-
‘gain that liberty we now have so much
‘cause to triumph in.’

Leontine. ‘Come, sir, you see the
‘lady is disconcerted, — let us leave her
‘to meditate on this adventure, it may
‘be of service in some future one.’

Rossano. ‘With all my heart. — A
‘good husband to you, madam.’

Leontine. ‘I join in the same wish.
‘— Your servant, madam.’

They departed with these words, and
I staid not long after them, — the sight
of Syrenia’s despair, how justly soever she
had brought it on herself, giving more
pain than satisfaction.

End of the Seventh BOOK.

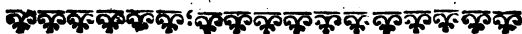


THE

Invisible Spy.



BOOK VIII.



CHAP. I.

Contains a brief detail of such occurrences as presented themselves to the Author's observation in an evening's Invisible ramble thro' several parts of this metropolis.



It has often been a matter of very great concern to me, and I believe must be the same to every thinking mind, to see how some people are continually hurried and busied about merc trifles, of no manner of consequence to themselves, or scarce to any body else; while all the duties of religion, — all the regard for the welfare of their most particular friends, — all love of country, at

even the dearest interests of their own families, are totally neglected.

What judgment can we form of a person of this cast, but that he has a vacuum in his head ready to be fill'd up with the first toy that presents itself, and not being endow'd with a strength of reason sufficient to direct his choice, suffers himself to be engross'd by such things as he finds make most noise in the world, not such as have most relation to his own affairs, either as to fortune or reputation.

Can there be a sight more farcical than for a man who, without any petition to prefer or suit to solicit; in fine, without any call or business whatsoever, is continually cringing at the levee of a minister of state, and when the compliments are paid and the circle is dismiss'd, runs thro' the whole round of his acquaintance, reporting where he has been and what he has seen, sagaciously remarking on every nod, wink, or smile of the great man, and finding mystery even in the tye of his wig, or the loose or strait buttoning his coat?

Another, whose affairs at home perhaps are involved in the utmost perplexities, shall pass the best part of his time among

the jobbers in 'Change-Alley, — go from coffee-house to coffee-house, — enquire of every broker he meets with the price of stocks, in which he has no share, or money to purchase any, and be more solicitous in finding out the uses to which the Sinking-Fund is appropriated than for the means of extricating himself out of his present difficulties.

A third values himself much upon being a great connoisseur in politics, — registers all the public papers from year to year, pretends to reconcile all the contradictions they contain, and to discover some latent meaning in every paragraph, and takes more pains to unriddle their imaginary ænigmas than a poor servitor at the university does to translate *Perseus* for a rich student who pays, and fathers the labour of his brain.

Others have a taste for building, — are extremely curious in ornamenting the structures they cause to be erected with carvings, paintings, and such like superficial beauties; but never once examine how the foundation is laid, or whether the pompous outworks may not be liable to sink very soon into a heap of rubbish. — Some employ their whole cares on the breeding and well managing their horses, hounds,

hounds, and game-cocks, leaving the education of their sons entirely unregarded.

Impossible is it to enumerate the various trifles with which too many, even among the highest class of life, suffer themselves not only to be amused, but wholly taken up; — but I think, without any danger of being accused of too much severity, one may justly say with Shakespear of such men, that

‘ The earth has bubbles as the water hath,
‘ And these are some of them.’

In a word, — MUCH ADOE ABOUT NOTHING, — is a play so universally acted in this town, that one can go to very few places without being witness of some scenes of it.

As insignificant, however, as these people may seem by the description I have given of them, and as in effect they really are, they are yet of more consequence to the public than is generally believed, or than they themselves, with all the stock of vanity they are usually possess’d of, are capable of imagining; — this, tho’ it may be thought a paradox, will be easy for me to make appear, — as thus :

These unjudging creatures, for I have already proved them to be such, are frequently made the tools by which evil and designing men fashion out their ends : — when those in power have any thing on foot, from which they find it necessary to divert the attention of the nation, it is but throwing out some whisper, though of ever so absurd and ridiculous a nature, among the people I am speaking of, and they will immediately ring it in the ears of the populace 'till it becomes the cry, and every argument that truth and reason can alledge is deafen'd with the noise.

It was doubtless by this very means chiefly that Oliver Cromwell and his subtle agents accomplish'd the dreadful work of murder and usurpation ; and there have been some instances, of a yet more modern date, which have shewn how far this spirit of enthusiasm has been able to bring about the most astonishing as well as most pernicious events ; — events which all good men and faithful patriots have beheld with horror and detestation, though unable to repel the impetuous torrent of a blind, bigotted, and mistaken zeal : — events which we are willing to flatter ourselves will no more spread distraction

traction and devastation through these kingdoms.

A late most excellent poet seems, notwithstanding, to have had some apprehensions of this kind; — in speaking on the topic of national calamities he says very elegantly, though I hope not prophetically,

- ‘ Who knows but we may see again
‘ what once amaz’d we saw,
- ‘ When some black time may come
‘ when rage shall grapple law,
- ‘ And hush pale justice with domi-
‘ nion’s awe?’

An experience of many years, join’d with a diligent observation of the world, has convinced me, beyond all doubt, that these inconsiderates, without being sensible of the mischief they do, have been, and daily are, the instruments of propagating the most infamous scandals, gross falsities, and base aspersions on the great and good; as also the most ridiculous and idle stories, invented and calculated by men of more thinking heads, to amuse and divert the attention of the public from what most demands its regard.

A glaring instance of this latter kind now takes up the town, — all mouths are full of it, — all ears are open to it; — but it appears to me that there are few eyes clear enough to discern the secret ground-work of this mountain of absurdities, and on what motive it was erected.

I think it not my province, however, nor shall presume to inform the judgment of any one in this point, but shall only relate a passage I happen'd to be witness of, which every one is at liberty to descant upon as he shall think proper.

Being one day on the other side of the Royal-Exchange, where some business I had there being dispatch'd sooner than I expected, it came into my head to call in at a certain celebrated coffee-house, which I had been told was frequented by a great number of the most eminent and wealthy citizens; but as I had no acquaintance with them, and some other more substantial reasons for not appearing in propria persona, I chose to go in my Invisible capacity.

Pursuant to this resolution I stepp'd into the first obscure alley I could find, and there girded on my precious Belt
whic

which, as well as my Tablets, I seldom went out without taking with me, and then hasted to the place I mention'd.

I found the room very full of company, most of whom were of that sect of dissenters from the establish'd church which are under the denomination of Presbyterians ; — I would not here be understood to mean any thing in ridicule of those gentlemen ; for I love and revere every man of real virtue and good sense, be he of what persuasion soever.

How far the persons I have just now occasion to speak of answer to either of these characters I will not pretend to say, — let their own words testify, — I shall, according to the phrase of the inspired writer, — set a guard upon my mouth that I offend not with my lips. — But to proceed,

Three or four, who I afterwards perceived were leading men among the sanctified tribe, were engag'd in a very warm dispute with a gentleman who endeavoured, with a great deal of spirit, to expose the gross absurdities and falshood of a cause they took upon them to maintain; and with a kind of magisterial air attempted to enforce the belief of in others.

The odds appear'd to me at first, I confess, to be a little ungenerous ; but I was the more strengthen'd in this opinion when I heard the manner in which they deliver'd their arguments, and that were urg'd in favour of one of the most preposterous and ridiculous complaints that ever engag'd the attention of any men of common sense : — after saying this, I think it is needless to add, it was the affair of Squires and Canning. — As I am utterly unacquainted with the names either of those who defended the cause of the latter, or of him who treated it with contempt, I shall distinguish the one by that of Assertors, and the other by that of Opponent.

The conversation which pass'd on both sides, after I had got a convenient place to post myself, and had spread my Tablets, I shall give the public a faithful transcript of, as taken from those unerring testimonies, and was as the reader will find underwritten.

First Assertor. ' I am surpris'd, sir, * you should rack your brain for arguments against the cause of helpless innocence and virtue in distress.'

Second

Second Asserter. ‘ ’Tis barbarous, ’tis
‘ cruel. — Where shall we find an object
‘ of compassion if Betty Canning is not
‘ one? — We know her, sir, — know
‘ her to be pure and unpolluted.’

Third Asserter. ‘ Ay, — She is of our
‘ congregation, — has always been a dili-
‘ gent frequenter of the meeting-house,
‘ and fervent in her devotions.’

Opponent. ‘ So because she is of your
‘ congregation, it naturally follows she
‘ must be chaste and pious; — the lambs
‘ of your flock never go astray; — but
‘ I forbear to make any reflection on this
‘ score, and shall only say, I never shall
‘ give credit to a story so full of incon-
‘ sistencies and improbabilities as this
‘ which has been forged by her and her
‘ accomplices.’

First Asserter. ‘ Sir, there is no reason-
‘ ing against fact; she has sworn to the
‘ truth of it before a magistrate, and that
‘ magistrate has testified his belief of it.’

Opponent. ‘ Yes, — the story she told
‘ was romantic, — it suited his taste. —
‘ he thought it might be a proper subject
‘ to work up into a Farce or Puppet-show,
‘ so

‘ so was willing to promote the credibility of it.’

First Asserter. ‘ Mere spite and scandal.’

Opponent. ‘ Not at all ; and I doubt not but the imposition will be fully laid open by another magistrate, superior in every degree to him who takes her part.’

First Asserter. ‘ Sir, it is prophane and impious in him, or you or any man, to espouse the cause of a wicked old hag, — a vagabond, — a gipsy, such as Mary Squires ; and a known instrument of libidinous pleasures, such as mother Wells.’

Second Asserter. ‘ Oh ’tis an abomination to all good men, and every word in favour of those vile wretches smells rankly of the breath of the old serpent.’

Opponent. ‘ Gentlemen, I have nothing to alledge in defence of these creatures ; but that however guilty they may have been, or continue to be, in other respects, they are entirely innocent in this they are now accused of.’

First

First Assertor. ‘ No, no, — ’tis impossible.’

Opponent. ‘ Saying a thing does not prove it to be so ; — but give me leave only to offer a few queries, in relation to some of the many inconsistencies in the tale told by that idle wench, Betty Canning.’

Second Assertor. ‘ Do so, — we shall know how to answer them.’

Opponent. ‘ First then, — supposing her to have been robb’d in the manner she pretends by two ruffians, — what could induce fellows who live upon the spoil, after having taken from her all they found worth taking, to quit the pursuit of other booty and lose their time in dragging her into the country, only to throw her into the house and then leave her there ; for she does not accuse them of making any attempt upon her chastity ?’

First Assertor. ‘ As to that, — it is highly probable they might be seduced by mother Wells to bring the first young woman they could meet with to her house, in order to be made a sacrifice
‘ to

‘ to her mercenary views, and the lust of
‘ some vile fellow.’

Opponent. ‘ Then they would certainly
‘ have chose an object of a more tempt-
‘ ing aspect, or would have deserved
‘ little for their pains ; — but let that
‘ pass. — If it were as you imagine, —
‘ would any woman, who it is said has
‘ long been in practice in the seducing
‘ trade, have behaved towards the prey
‘ brought into her clutches in the fashion
‘ she did to Betty Canning ? — Would
‘ she not rather have sooth’d the frightened
‘ maid, — reviv’d her drooping spirits
‘ with good eating and drinking, — pro-
‘ mis’d her fine cloaths, and then intro-
‘ duced some man to her, who might
‘ have allured her to the sin she aim’d to
‘ make her guilty of ? — Surely the way
‘ to tempt her to be a prostitute was not
‘ to lock her up alone in a wild desolate
‘ room, without a bed to lie upon, or
‘ any other refreshment than a little
‘ bread and water ; — such usage, one
‘ must think, was intended to mortify,
‘ not excite a carnal inclination.’

First Asserter. ‘ Sir, I am grieved, —
‘ greatly grieved in spirit, to find you so
‘ ignorant of the force of virtue ; — I
‘ tell you, sir, that the courage and re-
‘ solution

‘ solution of this pious virgin struck such
‘ an awe into the minds of those profligate
‘ wretches she was placed among,
‘ that they had not the power of putting
‘ their wicked designs in execution ; —
‘ Heaven, indeed, for a trial of her patience,
‘ permitted them to distress her
‘ helpless innocence, but not to destroy
‘ it.’

Opponent. ‘ Very extraordinary, truly.
‘ — But pray, sir, why did this suffering
‘ saint remain so long under the roof of
‘ such abandon’d creatures, since all accounts
‘ agree that in three days, nay in
‘ three hours after her confinement, she
‘ had the same opportunity of making
‘ her escape as at the time she pretends to
‘ effect it ?’

Second Asserter. ‘ Her eyes were not
‘ open to the means of her deliverance
‘ till that blessed moment ; — it was ordained
‘ she should undergo the persecution she did,
‘ in order to make her
‘ virtue more triumphant over sin and
‘ shame.’

Opponent. ‘ Oh, gentlemen, — these
‘ arguments will never be swallow’d any
‘ where but in a conventicle.’

Third

Third Asserter. 'Sir, they will always have their due weight with every one but a reprobate.'

Opponent. 'How, sir!'

The Opponent was so much incens'd at these words, that he started from his seat and was about to reply with his fist, but some of the more moderate part of the company interposed, and prevented the mischief that might otherwise have ensued: — by their persuasions he sat down again, and the dispute would doubtless have been renew'd, it may be with greater vehemence than before, if a drawer from a neighbouring tavern had not luckily come and told him that two gentlemen, whose names he mentioned, desir'd to speak with him; on which he went away, perhaps to the great satisfaction of the assertors of Betty Canning's cause, who, if he had staid and continued his queries, might probably have been a little puzzled to find answers to them.

During the debate I have been repeating every one in the room kept a profound silence; but afterwards the conversation became general, — several other subjects were started by particular persons,

sons, but they were not listen'd to, — the majority seem'd to have their heads so full of Betty Canning that they could scarce think or speak of any thing beside : — 'tis true, indeed, they did not all give credit to her story, yet the positiveness with which they heard it affirm'd made the least credulous divided in their thoughts, and afraid to pass a judgment either on the one or the other side of the question.

The reader will doubtless naturally suppose that it was impossible for me to live in the world, and have any acquaintance in it, without having heard, long before I came to this place, much talk of Elizabeth Canning, — her pitiful distress, — her miraculous preservation and escape, and all the other prodigies of that amazing story.

'Tis true, indeed, I was a stranger to no part of it ; — but then my conversation being chiefly among the gay part of the town, I was not much surpris'd that people who can find very little to employ their thoughts should be fond of a tale which had so much of the marvellous in it ; — as children, before they arrive at years capable of being instructed in more solid matters, listen with pleasure to their nurses

nurses stories of giants, — fairies, and enchanted castles, — as such I regarded all they said, and thought no further of it.

But when I heard grave citizens, — men of business, — of a sedate deportment and good understanding in other things, argue with serious countenances on such a heap of wild absurdities, I cannot say whether my astonishment or indignation had most dominion over my faculties ; but this I know, that both together destroy'd all the little stock of patience I am master of, and would not suffer me to stay any longer to listen to those insignificant debates which I found were likely to continue among this company.



CHAP.



C H A P. II.

Relates some farther incidents of a pretty particular nature, which fell under the Author's observation in the same evening's Invisible progression.

THOSE turbulent emotions, which the scene I had just come from being witness of had rais'd in me, being somewhat quieted by air and walking, I had the curiosity to call in at another great coffee-house, hoping I should find there something to give a turn to the present disposition of my mind.

But I found that the remains of my ill-humour were not to be so soon dissipated as I had imagined. — Here was indeed a vast deal of company, — clerks in public offices, — lawyers, — physicians, — tradesmen, and some few divines, compos'd the promiscuous assembly; but all were engag'd on the same dirty draggle-tail subject, as one of our news-writers justly terms it, the names of Betty Canning, the Gipsy, and mother Wells, resounded from each quarter of the croud-
ed

ed room, and the cause then depending between these creatures made the whole conversation at every table.

Here I would not be at the trouble of opening my Tablets, easily perceiving that nothing worthy of being recorded in them; or of communicating to the public, was likely to ensue; and also that the smallest part of time I should waste in this company would be paying too dear for any discourses I should hear from them.

Accordingly I left the house after having staid there about seven minutes; but had not reach'd the next street before a confused noise behind obliged me to stand up in the porch of a door 'till the hubbub was pass'd by.

The occasion of this uproar presently appear'd; — it was a poor fellow carried on a bier, with very little signs of life in him, — his face cover'd with blood which issued from his nose and mouth, — his cloaths torn that the naked flesh appear'd in many places; but so deform'd with bruises that it could scarce be known for what it was; — a mix'd rabble of men, women and children follow'd, shouting, hallooing, and crying, — it was good enough

enough for him, — and that they were glad he had got his reward.

I was startled at so much inhumanity, for I thought nothing could excuse such cruel treatment, though I doubted not but the fellow had been guilty of some atrocious crime ; — but I was soon undeceived in this point, and let into the whole affair.

A tradesman who happen'd to be standing at his shop door, just opposite to the place where I had taken shelter, stepp'd forward and ask'd what was the matter, — and by what accident the poor man on the bier was reduced to that condition he saw him in ; — on this several of the mob gather'd about him, and answer'd his interrogatories in these terms :

First Mob. ‘ Ah, sir, he is as arrant
‘ a rogue as ever you heard on in your
‘ life.’

Second Mob. ‘ Aye, ’twere no matter
‘ if he had been kill'd outright.’

Third Mob. ‘ No, no, ’tis much better
‘ as it is, — I hope to make a holiday to
‘ see him hang'd.’

Shop

Shopkeeper. ‘ But what has he done ? ’

Fourth Mob. ‘ Done, fir, you will
‘ blefs yourself to hear it ; — he said that
‘ poor Betty Canning was a perjur’d flut ;
‘ — that all she had sworn to was lyes ; —
‘ and that she deserv’d to be whipp’d at
‘ the cart’s tail, or pillory’d, or transport-
‘ ed to the plantations ; — and a great
‘ deal more.’

First Mob. ‘ Nay, he was beginning
‘ to say worse things of her than all
‘ this, if his mouth had not been
‘ stopp’d.’

Shopkeeper. ‘ Then I suppose he has
‘ been fighting ? ’

Second Mob. ‘ No hang him, — I
‘ don’t believe he has courage enough to
‘ fight ; but he would have run his game
‘ on Betty Canning ’till now, for any
‘ thing I know, if a brewer’s servant and
‘ an honest slaughter-man in Fore-street,
‘ and three or four neighbours of ours in
‘ Norton-Falgate, had not all at once
‘ fallen upon him and beat the words
‘ down his throat.’

Shop-

Shopkeeper. ‘ But was not so many to
‘ one odds at football ?’

Third Mob. ‘ There is no minding
‘ fair play with such a rascal ; — abuse
‘ poor Betty Canning ; — why he de-
‘ serves to have his house pull’d down
‘ about his ears.’

Fourth Mob. ‘ Aye, and so it should,
‘ if it were not for his wife and five small
‘ children.’

The tradesman said no more but turn’d back into his shop, lifting up his hands and eyes in token of amazement, and the rabble ran to rejoin their companions, who I could hear still continued insulting and vilifying the poor maim’d wretch, who was altogether unable to return any part of their abuse.

This shopkeeper appear’d to me to be a more reasonable creature than most of these I had lately been among ; and I should have been glad to have had some discourse with him concerning this adventure ; — but that being impracticable, as I had no opportunity at present of shaking off my Invisibility, I was obliged to content myself and proceed in my progression.

I had

I had now no design in my head, — no particular course to steer; but as I was entirely free from any engagement that evening, and thought it too soon to go home, I rambled from one street to another for a considerable time, yet without meeting any one thing sufficient to tempt my curiosity to make a farther enquiry into.

Any observing reader may reasonably imagine, that the little satisfaction I had been able to reap in the visits I had made at the two coffee-houses I had been already in, would have hinder'd me from going into another, and indeed I was of that opinion myself; — I soon found I was mistaken however, — and so will he; — I really ventured into a third; but the motive which excited me to do so was this:

As I was passing by I perceived thro' the windows, for then the candles within were lighted up, several gentlemen with news-papers before them, on which they seem'd to be discoursing with each other with a great deal of seriousness and gravity: — as I have naturally an extreme passion for knowing the affairs of the world, those of Europe especially, I thought

thought it highly eligible in me to hear what was said upon them by persons who had the appearance of some understanding in them.

At the first table I came to were six or seven gentlemen, most of whom were some way or other concerned in the British Herring-fishery; but though they talk'd very learnedly on the subject, it suited not my taste, so staid not long with them, but adjourn'd to the next company.

These were merchants, who I found were greatly disconcerted at an article they had been just reading in relation to the strict engagements the French had enter'd into with the Indians, and the daily incursions those miscall'd friends and allies made on the English colonies; — but as I cannot pretend to any skill in commerce, I did not spread my Tablets to receive the impression of their discourse; so can only say in general, that they made very heavy complaints, and cry'd out, that if speedy care were not taken to put a stop to those proceedings, trade must be ruin'd, and our settlements in that part of the world utterly destroy'd.

The third table was fill'd with persons who seem'd to be of no avocation, nor at all interested in any branch of business or public affairs; but talk'd of every thing they had been reading merely as things which afforded matter for conversation. — On my joining them, the magnanimity of the Prussian monarch was the topic; — they extoll'd his wisdom, his bravery, his temperance, his clemency, the encouragement he gave to merit wheresoever he found it, and all unanimously agreed that he was the father of his people, — a blessing to the land he govern'd, — and a pattern to his fellow rulers of the earth.

The just admiration I ever had of this truly great and most amiable prince, — exclusive of that regard due to him as so near a relation to our gracious sovereign, would certainly have kept me at that table as long as the company had continued speaking on so agreeable a subject, if I had not been hurried from it by a propensity, I believe, more or less natural to all mankind, that of being most eager to explore what is hid from us with most care.

I ob-

I observed at a little table, which was placed at one corner of the room, a good distance from the others, two elderly persons, who seem'd very earnest in discourse on some important and secret affair ; — by the winks, the nods, and other significant gestures which accompanied the motion of their lips, I doubted not but that they were profound politicians, and were discussing some extraordinary transaction of the cabinet.

Their heads were pretty close together, and they spoke in so low a voice as to render it impossible to be heard by any one except by each other ; — but this precaution had no efficacy when once my wonderful Tablets were display'd, which had this excellent property of receiving the impression of whatever was said within the distance of nine yards, tho' utter'd in the most soft whisper.

On my drawing near to them they seem'd a little impatient for the coming of a person who they expected, and who presently after appear'd ; — as soon as he had seated himself the following dialogue ensued :

First Man. ‘ Oh, mr. Slycraft, I am
‘ glad you are come; — we were be-
‘ ginning to think you long,’

Slycraft. ‘ I am somewhat beyond
‘ my hour, indeed; but I assure you no-
‘ thing could have made me so but the
‘ good of the cause.’

Second Man. ‘ Your zeal and diligence
‘ are not to be doubted; — but let us hear
‘ what success have your endeavours met
‘ with.’

Slycraft. ‘ Truly not so much as I
‘ hoped; — I do not think there is a
‘ more difficult thing in the world than
‘ getting people to subscribe; — I have
‘ been half the town over and have been
‘ able to procure no more than three.’

First Man. ‘ Then I hope they are
‘ fat ones.’

Slycraft. ‘ Pretty well, as times go;
‘ — Credulous Woodcock, Esq; has set
‘ his name for twenty guineas.’

First Man. ‘ Very handsome; — five
‘ or six hundred such as he would do the
‘ business.’

Slycraft.

Slycraft. ‘ Aye, but where shall we
‘ find them ?’

Second Man. ‘ Well, but who are the
‘ others ?’

Slycraft. ‘ Why there is mr. Nathaniel
‘ Vaingood, — twelve guineas.’

First Man. ‘ We must take the will
‘ for the deed ; — he has not above sixty
‘ or seventy pounds a year to live upon.’

Slycraft. ‘ Then there is mr. Simon
‘ Goosly, the haberdasher, — ten guineas,
‘ but has promis’d to prevail on some
‘ friends of his to set their names very
‘ generously.’

Second Man. ‘ I dare say he will do
‘ all he can. — But have you seen mrs.
‘ Waver ?’

Slycraft. ‘ Yes, but she still desires a
‘ little more time to consider ; — says, she
‘ will enquire farther into the affair, and
‘ hear what her friends think of it ; and
‘ all I could get from her was an assu-
‘ rance, that if she found it proper to
‘ subscribe at all she would not set her
‘ name for less than an hundred pieces.’

First Man. ‘ Then we may be pretty certain of her ; for I know she will be directed by mr. Cantwell, the Nonconformist preacher, who labours all he can to promote the cause in question.’

Second Man. ‘ Have you yet found an opportunity of talking with the Orator ?’

Slycraft. ‘ I was with him above an hour, and when I had once convinced him that he should find his account in it, he gave me his word and honour that he would rant and roar ’till his chapel echoes in favour of the party.’

First Man. ‘ That is well ; — all engines must be set to work, or the town will grow cool on this business, and begin to renew their clamour against Naturalization of the Jews and Clandestine Marriage.bills ; — the spirit of the people will have vent on something or another, and you know it behoves us to keep them silent on those scores, — nothing ever did it more effectually than this we are upon ; — but it must be kept up for a time : — I could wish, methinks, we had the Westleys on our side.’

Second

Second Man. ‘ ’Tis a vain attempt,
‘ — they are now grown too rich to ac-
‘ cept of a small gratuity ; and I much
‘ question whether their exhortations
‘ would answer the expence.’

Slycraft. ‘ I am of your opinion : —
‘ besides, you know there is a person who
‘ can influence their congregations as
‘ much as any thing they can hear from
‘ the pulpit. — But I will tell you what
‘ I have done to-day, — I have engag’d
‘ a clergyman of the establish’d church
‘ to write a pamphlet in behalf of the
‘ cause we have in hand.’

First Man. ‘ A clergyman of the
‘ establish’d church employ his pen in be-
‘ half of such a cause ! — Prithee, Sly-
‘ craft, how did’st thou work upon him ?
‘ — it must certainly be by some very ex-
‘ traordinary method.’

Slycraft. ‘ The promise of a small
‘ present at first wrought upon his neces-
‘ sities ; — but on my telling him who
‘ and who were concerned in this busi-
‘ ness, and the motives which induced
‘ them to be so, the hopes of having the
‘ pitiful Curacy he now enjoys exchanged

‘ for a good fat living, made him wholly
‘ ours.’

First Man. ‘ Admirable !’

Second Man. ‘ But may we depend
‘ upon his secrecy ?’

Slycraft. ‘ Never doubt that, as his
‘ own interest is concern’d.

First Man. ‘ Hitherto things go pretty
‘ swimmingly on our side. — But let me
‘ see the subscription book ; — I have re-
‘ ceived five guineas to-day from mr.
‘ Obadiah Prim, and must insert his
‘ name.’

‘ Till now I was at the greatest loss, as
‘ tis probable the reader will also be, to
‘ know what all this meant, or in whose fa-
‘ vour or on what account the subscription
‘ they talk’d of was rais’d ; but on mr.
‘ Slycraft’s delivering the book to his
‘ friend, I look’d over the shoulder of the
‘ latter as he open’d it, and saw in the
‘ first leaf, by way of title page, these
‘ words wrote in a very fair hand :

A LIST

A LIST of those worthy Persons

W H O

Have subscribed to the relief

O F

ELIZABETH CANNING.

The names underwritten in this legend were too numerous to be inserted, — I shall therefore only say, that the sum of what was rais'd by their subscription amounted to little less than a thousand pounds ; — Monstrous abuse of charity ! — Preposterous benevolence ! which will hereafter reflect more shame than honour on the bestowers.

My astonishment was greater than I can express ; but I had not then time to indulge it. — The book being return'd to mr. Slycraft, he address'd his companions in these terms :

Slycraft. ‘ You know, gentlemen, that though it is highly necessary a sum of money should be raised for this girl, to prevent her squeaking, as Virtue Hall has done, yet the intent of those who set us to work was not to make her fortune, but by the strangeness of the story she

‘ tells to amuse the populace, and divert
‘ their attention from those things which
‘ they ought not to be too well acquaint-
‘ ed with.’

First Man. ‘ Very true ; and I think
‘ it answers the end.’

Second Man. ‘ Aye, and much better
‘ than could be expected.’

Slycraft. ‘ It has, indeed ; but I have
‘ been thinking of ways and means to
‘ make it do so yet more ; — suppose we
‘ advertise this subscription in the public
‘ papers ; — I have drawn up something
‘ for that purpose, which I should be
‘ glad to have your approbation of ?’

First Man. ‘ By all means ; — pray
‘ let us see it.’

Mr. Slycraft then took a small piece of paper out of his pocket and read these lines :

Slycraft. “ Whereas many well-dis-
“ posed and compassionate persons, in
“ regard to the severe distresses, cruel
“ usage, wonderful preservation, and mi-
“ raculous escape of that chaste maid
“ Elizabeth Canning, are inclined to
“ con-

“ contribute towards her future relief,
“ all such are desired to send what sums
“ they shall think fit to bestow to the
“ following places:”

Slycraft. ‘ We shall easily find shops
‘ and coffee-houses where the money may
‘ be received, if any shall be sent, as
‘ doubtless there will by several persons
‘ who we have not an opportunity to ad-
‘ dress. — But that is the least part of
‘ the business; — these advertisements
‘ will reach the country, — the people
‘ there will be curious to know the story,
‘ which they shall be inform’d of by
‘ ballads and penny books sent down to
‘ them. — What do you think of it?’

First Man. ‘ As of the most excel-
‘ lent stratagem I ever heard of in my
‘ life.’

Second Man. ‘ It is certainly a lucky
‘ thought; — the innocent country people
‘ will be quite alarm’d, — the young
‘ men will talk of nothing but Betty
‘ Canning to their sweethearts, and the
‘ old men think only to preserve their
‘ daughters from the danger she escaped;
‘ — all remembrance of what has been
‘ done by their superiors will be buried

‘ in oblivion, and elections may go how
‘ they will.’

Shcraft. ‘ I wrote the advertisement
‘ in a hurry, — just as the thought started
‘ into my head, — I am sensible it will
‘ admit of some emendations. — Suppose
‘ we adjourn to a tavern, where we may
‘ consult farther upon it with more pri-
‘ vacy than here?’

First Man. ‘ With all my heart.’

Second Man. ‘ And mine, as all our
‘ expences on this occasion are sure to be
‘ reimbursed.’

These brethren in iniquity went out of the coffee-house as the last repeated words were spoken, and I had not the least inclination to follow them, nor to hear what farther contrivances would be form’d to impose on the credulous, infatuated, deluded multitude: — indeed I was so thunder-struck at what I had already been witness of, that I could scarce forbear bursting into exclamations, which if utter’d by an unseen mouth must needs have been very astonishing and terrifying to all who had heard them; — I therefore prudently withdrew, designing to attempt no future discoveries that night.

The

The mean artifices which I found some men, miscall'd the great, make no scruple of putting in practice to gain their ends, fill'd me with an equal share of indignation and contempt; but when I reflected how I had just now seen charity, the noblest of all virtues, perverted and prostituted to reward infamy and vileness, it struck me with a horror which forced from me these or the like words :

‘ Good God! said I to myself, in an
‘ age when numberless, nameless miseries
‘ abound, — when all our prisons labour
‘ with the weight of wretches confined
‘ within their walls, many for small debts
‘ which their necessities obliged them to
‘ contract, and some by unjust and malicious
‘ prosecutions, — while every
‘ parish, nay almost every street, affords
‘ objects of real distress, — while
‘ the remains of the most antient and honourable
‘ families are reduced by the
‘ fatal South-Sea scheme, and other more
‘ latent public calamities, to the extremest
‘ want, shall all these, or any of these,
‘ send unavailing petitions to those from
‘ whom they might expect redress, while
‘ a girl sprung from the lowest dregs of
‘ the people, bred up to toil, a drudge,
‘ one of the very meanest class of servants,
‘ receive

‘ receive donations which she as little
‘ knows how to make a proper use of as
‘ to deserve ! — a girl, who if she had
‘ really suffer’d all she pretends to have
‘ done, would indeed have had a claim
‘ to justice against those who had wrong’d
‘ her, but none to the bounties so lavish-
‘ ly bestow’d upon her.’

These kind of meditations would doubtless have accompany’d me to my own door, if they had not been interrupted, as well as my course towards home, by an unexpected accident, which the reader will find faithfully related in the succeeding chapter.



CHAP.



C H A P. III.

Though it appears to be no more than a continuation of the same evening's ramble, yet it presents the reader with an adventure of much more importance to the public than any contained in the two last foregoing chapters.

THE human heart is liable to many bad propensities, which if not timely corrected by reason shoot forth into practice and become vices ; — but of these there are two sorts, — the one born with us, and part of our nature ; — the other imbibed by the fatal prevalence of example, and rooted in us by custom, which is a second nature.

Those born with us, as the indulging them is attended with some pleasure, urge in their defence the unconquerable desire of gratifying the senses : — the lustful man pleads the warmth of his constitution, and the strong allurements of beauty ; — the soul of the ambitious triumphs and exults on every degree of power

power he gains over his fellow-creatures; — the miser thinks himself happy in counting over his bags, and being master of a thing that will purchase all things else; — and the epicure feels no care, no sorrow, while he is emptying the full-charg'd goblet, and pallating the delicious viand.

But what has the blasphemer, — the profane swearer, or the gamester to allege in his vindication; — these are crimes in which nature has no part, — nor are the senses any way concern'd in them, as they neither excite nor feel any satisfaction in them; — one might therefore be apt to imagine, that men thus guilty sinn'd merely for the sake of sinning; — but I will not allow myself to think that there are many so impudently daring, — a few distinguish'd persons will serve to bring up a mode, — and every one knows that at present an indiscriminate imitation is the reigning folly of the English nation.

These were reflections which occur'd to me after I came home, as I was about to transcribe the remaining part of my evening's progress out of my precious Tablets: — I had some farther thoughts on the occasion, but as they might seem more proper for the pulpit than to be inserted

ferted in a work of this nature, I shall add no more, but proceed to the narrative of that adventure which gave rise to them.

As I was passing in my way home, thro' a street of no very good repute, two persons from a little narrow alley bolted hastily upon me, to the no small danger of my Invisibiltyship, if an agility not very common with me had not that instant enabled me to give a sudden spring, by which I avoided the rush I must otherwise have received.

They went on before me; — the night was extremely dark, — neither moon nor stars to assist the visual ray; but by the help of some candles burning in a shop not yet shut up, I distinguish'd that the one was very richly dress'd, and had much the appearance of a man of fashion; and that the other was a fellow I had often seen on many occasions, and whose character I was perfectly acquainted with.

Scarce is there a greater villain to be found in low-life; — I say in low-life, because should any persons in authority, or dignified with titles, which heaven forbid, ever appear in this nation, to deserve such black denominations, their crimes

crimes would, like their ranks, be distinguish'd, and superior to those which the rest of mankind have the power to put in practice, and though placed in an orb too high to be reach'd by the just vengeance of their oppress'd fellow-creatures, would doubtless incur what mr. Addison makes Cato prophetically say in relation to Julius Cæsar, on his endeavouring to subvert the old Roman constitution, and become absolute and perpetual Dictator ;

- ‘ Sure there are bolts in the right hand
‘ of Jove,
- ‘ Red with uncommon wrath to blast the
‘ Man
- ‘ Who owes his greatness to his country’s
‘ ruin.’

But to return to my little knave. — The wretch is now call'd mr. Makeplea, — he was formerly servant to a lawyer whom I employ'd in several affairs I had the misfortune to be engag'd in ; — living with that gentleman a considerable time he pick'd up some scraps of law, — and all the terms and phrases of that abstruse science by rote, — knew how to take out a writ, set an officer to work, fill up a bail-bond, and procure evidences in a dubious cause. — With this fund he had the impudence, after his master's death,
to

to pretend he had been his clerk, got himself enter'd as an attorney, and has ever since practis'd as such.

His sole business, however, as may be easily supposed, has always been among the very meanest sort of people, fomenting litigious quarrels, and then making them up, after having drain'd the purses on both sides: — tallymen and usurers, either to get in their weekly payments or to justify their extorions, and harlots to revenge themselves by law on those who call'd their honesty in question, were the chief of his clients, — and the best of those with whom he is accusom'd to converse, the greatest part of his acquaintance being bailiffs and their followers.

I could not therefore avoid being very much amaz'd on seeing him in the company I now did; but my wonder soon ceas'd on hearing, as I was close at their heels, the following discourse between them:

Makeplea. ' It is very lucky, mr.
' Coaxum, that I happen'd to be at home
' when you came; — there are some of
' the profession who would have scrupled
' to undertake this business; — but for
m

‘ my part, I am always ready to venture
‘ every thing to serve my friends.’

Coaxum. ‘ My dear Makeplea, you
‘ never lost any thing, nor ever shall, by
‘ our fraternity ; — I know there are
‘ some who will sneak their heads out of
‘ the collar and leave their lawyer in the
‘ lurch.’

Makeplea. ‘ Aye faith, I narrowly
‘ escaped the pillory once ; — a vile dog,
‘ who, after I had procured him three
‘ evidences, pretended a panic in his
‘ conscience, threw up his cause, and
‘ suffer’d himself to be nonsuited.’

Coaxum. ‘ You know we scorn such
‘ doings ; — and I can tell you this will
‘ be a pretty good job to you ; — we
‘ drain’d the fool’s pocket of above an
‘ hundred pieces before we plaid upon
‘ credit, so that there is enough in bank
‘ to make you a handsome present for
‘ your trouble.’

Makeplea. ‘ Well, but concerning
‘ this reversion, — I hope he has lost
‘ enough to give an air of justice ; — that
‘ is, a *quantum sufficit* for the making
‘ over his estate after the decease of his
‘ father?’

Coaxum.

Coaxum. ‘ Upwards of a thousand pounds, — besides a gold watch and a fine diamond ring, which he seems to set a high value upon, — the two last Count Cogdy has agreed to sell him again at a great price ; — so that altogether the sum will amount to a sufficient purchase of the reversion of an estate of four hundred a year, — especially as the present possessor is not above fifty years of age, and may live a long time. — Besides, we hear the young fellow is going to be married to a woman of fortune, — so that the deeds may be made redeemable ; — we do not regard his dirty acres, — the ready rhino is what we want, and he may pay the money out of his wife’s fortune, and be clear of us again.’

Makeplea. ‘ Oh, then it will be a mortgage rather than a sale. — Who are with him ?’

Coaxum. ‘ Only Count Cogdy, Jack Hazard, and Tom Wheadle.’

Makeplea. ‘ They cannot be witnesses, as I suppose they are parties concern’d.’

Coaxum.

Сожит. ‘ We are equal sharers in
 ‘ the booty ; but the money was lost
 ‘ wholly to the Count. — However,
 ‘ there will be no want of witnesses, —
 ‘ the landlord of the house and his son
 ‘ will set their hands.’

These words brought them to a door, which being open’d at the first knock, by one of the most ill-look’d fellows that ever disgraced human nature, they went through a long dark narrow passage into a back parlour, where I accompany’d them, and was witness of a scene somewhat like what I remember to have seen some years ago in a play of *Mrs. Centlivre’s*, call’d the *Gamester*. — Count Cogdy, as he was call’d, sat leaning his arm upon a table in a careless posture ; — Jack Hazard was walking backwards and forwards in the room humming an old tune ; — a gentleman, whose name I had not yet heard, had thrown himself across two chairs with all the tokens of despair about him ; — Tom Wheadle stood near him, and as we came in was endeavouring to give him some consolation, in these terms :

Tom Wheadle. ‘ Prithee, dear Cleri-
 ‘ mont, do not be thus disconcerted, —
 ‘ I have

‘ I have lost as much as you twenty
‘ times over, and have as often recover’d
‘ it again, — these things will happen to
‘ gentlemen that play ; — fortune, indeed,
‘ has been against you to-night, but may
‘ not always be so, — one lucky hit at
‘ another time may bring all back.’

Clerimont made no answer, nor seem’d
to regard what he said, ’till hearing the
name of Makeplea, and Count Cogdy
beginning to instruct him in the business
he was to do, that unfortunate gentleman
started up at once from the posture he
had been in, and staring somewhat wildly
in the face of Makeplea, cry’d to him,

Clerimont. ‘ Are you the fiend who is
‘ to convey my soul, that is, my estate,
‘ into the regions of eternal darkness,
‘ whence it can never, — never more
‘ return !’

Makeplea. ‘ What do you mean, sir !’

Count Cogdy. ‘ The gentleman is only
‘ a little out of humour. — Faith, mr.
‘ Clerimont, you do not do well to be-
‘ have in this fashion ; — you have lost
‘ some money, indeed, — but you have
‘ lost it fairly ; — I never take an ad-
‘ vantage

‘vantage of any man, and shall be ready
‘to give you your revenge at any time.’

Jack Hazard. ‘Aye, I will say that
‘for the Count, that he scorns a mean
‘thing.’

Count Cogdy. ‘I believe there is not
‘a more unlucky fellow at play in the
‘world than myself, though I have hap-
‘pen’d to win to-night; — yet, as I
‘said before, I am ready to give mr.
‘Clerimont an opportunity of retrieving
‘all he has lost whenever he pleases: —
‘for my part, I would stake all I am
‘worth against a pair of shoe-buckles,
‘rather than any gentleman should think
‘I impos’d upon him.’

Coaxum. ‘No, no, — you are above
‘any such thing.’

Jack Hazard. ‘We all know that.’

Makeplea. ‘Come, come, gentlemen,
‘— this is doing nothing, — all loss of
‘time, and every moment of mine is
‘precious; — there are two noblemen
‘now waiting for me at the Garter tavern;
‘— pray proceed to the business; — let
‘me know how the deeds I have brought
‘with me are to be fill’d up.’

Count

Count Cogdy. ‘ I will tell you immediately ; — but first I must do justice to this gentleman. — Here, sir, are the watch and ring you stak’d, the value of which, you know, is added to the other sums.

Clerimont put the one in his pocket and the other on his finger with a deep sigh, and the Count went on repeating to Makeplea the substance of what he was to write : — the latter, at the end of every article, demanded of Clerimont whether he agreed to it ; — to which he fully reply’d,

Clerimont. ‘ I do ; — I see no other remedy.’

The lawyer having dispatch’d his part, Clerimont was desir’d to execute, — that is, to sign and seal ; — he did both, but with such a trembling hand and visible distraction of mind that my heart bled for him. — In delivering the writings to the Count he said,

Clerimont. ‘ There, sir, — I suppose this is all that is requir’d of me, — and I may now depart ?’

Count Cogdy. ‘ No, no, — we must
‘ have a bottle and a bird together, to
‘ shew we are still good friends.’

Jack Hazard. ‘ Aye, and each of us
‘ a wench too; — I know where there is
‘ a covey of as young, pretty, plump
‘ partridges as any in Covent-Garden.’

Clerimont. ‘ Rot your bottle and your
‘ bird and your wenches; — I have done
‘ with them, and you, and the whole
‘ world for ever.’

In speaking these words he snatch’d up
his sword and hat and was about to go
out of the room; but they all laid hold
of him, crying at the same time,]

Count Cogdy. ‘ Nay, Clerimont, you
‘ must not leave us in this humour; —
‘ upon my soul no man wishes you better
‘ than myself.’

Tom Wheadle. ‘ We are all your
‘ friends, — your very good friends.’

Jack Hazard. ‘ Dear Clerimont, be
‘ persuaded.’

Coaxum

Coaxum. 'Faith we must not lose
'you so.'

He made not the least answer to all this, nor seem'd in the least affected with their pretended kindness ; but broke from them and ran directly out of the house. — As for me, I had as little inclination as himself to stay in the company of such blood-suckers ; indeed, having never seen him before I was curious to know somewhat more of him, and also how he would behave when alone, and at liberty to ruminate on the misfortune he had plunged himself into, — so follow'd his steps with all the speed I could.

It was not very difficult to keep pace with him ; for tho' he gain'd ground of me at first, he soon halted and gave me an opportunity of coming up with him. — Never did man traverse the streets with more disorder'd motions, — crossing the way an hundred times, I believe, within the space of half a quarter of a mile, without having the least occasion to do so : — sometimes he would run as if in pursuit of somebody, and sometimes stand quite still and motionless as a statue ; and it was well that the darkness of the night befriended him, otherwise whoever had

met him would doubtless have taken him to be mad.

In this fashion he went part of the Strand, and turn'd down one of those streets leading to the water-side; — he stopp'd about the middle of it at a door, and had his hand upon the knocker, but a sudden thought coming that instant into his head, he left it without making the signal for admittance, and walk'd slowly to the end of the street, where leaning on a little wall that overlooks the river, he remain'd for some minutes in the most thoughtful and contemplative attitude; — then said to himself,

Clerimont. ‘ How profound ! — how
‘ solemn is this silent scene ! — inviting
‘ to a certain rest from misery and shame !
‘ — Here, within the bosom of this
‘ friendly element, may all my follies and
‘ misfortunes be hid for ever from the
‘ talking world !’

I fear'd nothing less would ensue, than that I should see him presently attempt to do as his words had hinted; — I therefore drew as near to him as I could, in order to prevent so sad an effect of his despair. — Here I cannot help remarking what I have often reflected upon since;

since ; — that if the thing had happen'd as I expected, and Clerimont had found himself snatch'd from his fate by an Invisible hand, he would doubtless have imagined his preservation owing to the interposition of some Supernatural Being, and reported it as a miracle.

But how he would have acted on such an odd occasion is uncertain ; for after a pause, and disburthening himself of some few sighs, he started from the posture he had been in, and cry'd,

Clerimont. ‘ No, — it must not be ;
‘ — I have some business still for life, —
‘ revenge on the curst cheat, the villain
‘ that has undone me. — Love too, de-
‘ mands something from me ; — but by
‘ what means I shall repay that mighty
‘ debt I know not. — Oh Charlotte ! —
‘ Charlotte ! on how lost a wretch hast
‘ thou bestow'd thy heart !’

These words were utter'd with a groan which seem'd to cleave his breast, and were the last I heard from him at that time ; — he turn'd back, and went hastily to the house where he had first stopp'd, the door was open'd on his knocking, and too suddenly shut again for me to have enter'd with him if I had intend-

ed to do so; but the variety of accidents presented to me in this evening's ramble had already sufficiently fill'd my head, and made me glad to retire to my repose.



C H A P. IV.

Relates some passages which, if the Author is not very much mistaken in his conjectures, will draw sighs of compassion from many a tender heart of both sexes.

THE next morning, in running over in my mind the detail of the transactions of the evening before, the vexation I had receiv'd on the score of Betty Canning very much subsided, and I look'd upon the whole thing as below a serious consideration; — I could not help, indeed, retaining some concern that the people of England should be so infatuated as to suffer their thoughts to be led astray and alienated from affairs of the greatest consequence by such an idle story; but as I doubted not but that the imposition she had been guilty of would be detected, though her abettors might perhaps find

find means to screen her person from the punishment, I became more easy, and resolved to banish as much as possible all remembrance of it.

But my ideas were widely different in regard to poor Clerimont; — as much a stranger as he was to me I was convinced, by what I had seen and heard, that as he had no stock of ready money to prevent the mortgage he had made of his reversion, so I was equally assured, by his despair, that he had no visible means of raising a sum sufficient to redeem it. — His calling on the name of Charlotte with so much vehemence made me also not doubt but that he had some tender attachment, which he fear'd would be broke through by what he had done.

Though I know no vice for which I have a more real contempt than the love of gaming, yet the age of this gentleman, which could not exceed above two or three and twenty, seem'd to me a very moving plea in his behalf, and the graces of his mein and aspect so much interested me in his favour, that I less blamed his inadvertency than compassionated the misfortune it had brought him into.

In fine, — his person and his sufferings had made a very strong impression on me; — he was the first object of my waking thoughts, and my impatience to be better acquainted with his circumstances obliged me to leave my bed some hours before the time in which I was accustomed to do so; — I rose in a hurry, — transcribed what I have been relating, and got the dialogues expunged from my Tablets by the pure fingers of my little Virgin, — then hastened to the house where I had seen Clerimont enter the night before, and which, by the help of some lamps in the street, I had taken sufficient notice of to be able to know again.

The door was luckily open when I came to it; — a servant-maid, who seem'd to have more inclination to hold a gossip's tale than to do the business she was hired for, stood leaning with both her hands upon her mop, very earnest in discourse with one of her own occupation in the neighbourhood; — a few words serv'd to convince me that these wenches were deft-canting on the affairs of the families they lived in, which, as I was not at present in a humour to pry into, I staid not to hear what was said, but went directly into the
the

the house, and up stairs, supposing Clerimont might be lodg'd in the first floor.

I was not deceived, — I found him writing at his buroe in the dining-room, — a letter lay by him directed to Count Cogdy ; — this was folded and ready for sealing, so it was not in my power to examine the contents ; but his pen, on my entrance, was employ'd on another, which, looking over his shoulder, I saw was dictated in the following terms :

To miss CHARLOTTE *****.

“ My only dear, and for ever

“ dear CHARLOTTE,

“ **A** Thousand heart-rending sighs, —
“ a thousand pangs, more terrible
“ than any death can inflict, accompany
“ every syllable of this distracted epistle !
“ — I foresee the anguish it will give
“ you, and feel all the weight of yours
“ added to my own. — Oh, Charlotte !
“ I must see you no more ! — that love
“ so long cemented by the utmost proofs
“ of mutual tenderness, and so near be-
“ ing fulfilled in a happy union, must
“ be now broke off at once, — dissolved
“ for ever ! — I have renounced all
“ claim to every future good, and justly
“ incurr'd the fate that now attends me !

“ a few short hours will inform you, that
“ I either do not exist at all, or exist
“ only to be a vagrant! — a wretched
“ exile from father, country, friends,
“ and you more dear than all !

“ In fine, — my Charlotte, such is
“ the sad necessity to which I have re-
“ duced myself, as compels me to do a
“ thing which nature most abhors ; — I
“ go this very morning either to kill or
“ to be kill’d, — which of these two shall
“ happen is in the hand of heaven ; —
“ — each equally tears me from every
“ earthly comfort. — I chose to acquaint
“ you previously with this accident, to
“ the end you may be the less surpris’d
“ when you shall hear it from the mouth
“ of others. — I can say no more. — Fare-
“ wel, thou loveliest, best, and dearest
“ of thy sex. — Hate not the memory of

“ The undone

“ CLERIMONT.

“ P. S. As I have render’d myself un-
“ worthy of preserving any marks of
“ your affection, I return the ring with
“ which you blest my finger in our hap-
“ pier days. — Accept once more my
“ last adieu ; — may endless blessings
“ wait

“ wait you, superior, if possible, to my
“ woes.”

This unhappy gentleman dissembled not in the lines he wrote, — his heart now labour'd with agonies greater than could be express'd with words, and shew'd themselves in every look and gesture.

After having carefully inclosed the ring, and put both that and the letter under a cover, he order'd a chairman to be call'd, and delivering to him both these dispatches, and telling him where they were to be carried, he proceeded to give some farther instructions :

Clerimont. ‘ This, to miss Charlotte,
‘ you are to leave with her servant, with
‘ orders to give it to her lady when she
‘ is stirring : — this to Count Cogdy re-
‘ quires an immediate answer, which you
‘ must wait for.’

The fellow, having assured him that he would be punctual in obeying his commands, went on his errand, and Clerimont continued walking backwards and forwards in the room with a motion extremely discomposed, — then threw himself down on a settee, and presently seem'd buried, as it were, in a profound resvery.

I am pretty certain it was a full half-hour before he exchange'd this fix'd and death-like position for one in a quite contrary extreme ; — his looks and gestures now, methought, had somewhat like frantic in them ; — he beat his head against the waincoat, — stamp'd, — and ever and anon burst into the most vehement exclamations, — some of which are these :

Clerimont. ' How unhappy a creature is man ! — the very reason we are
' so proud of makes us miserable ! — the
' brutes, equally void of passions as of
' sorrow, neither feel torments here nor
' dread a future hell ! — What will poor
' Charlotte say on reading of my letter !
' — How will my father support the
' story of my fate when it shall reach his
' ears ! — Wretch ! wretch that I am,
' — born to be a curse to all who love
' me !'

The return of the chairman brought him a little to his senses, and he demanded hastily whether he had got an answer from Count Cogdy ; — to which the man reply'd,

Chair-

Chairman. ‘ No, sir ; — I went there
‘ first, but the people of the house told
‘ me he was not stirring, nor they be-
‘ lieved would be for a great while, so I
‘ went on to madam Charlotte’s, and left
‘ the letter with her maid, as your ho-
‘ nour bid me ; but I had not got above
‘ half the street before her footboy ran
‘ after me and said his lady would speak
‘ to me, on which I went back with him.’

Clerimont. ‘ Charlotte already up. —
‘ that’s strange. — What did she say to
‘ you ?’

Chairman. ‘ Sir, she only ask’d where
‘ the gentleman was that sent the letter
‘ by me, and whether you were alone ;
‘ — I told her you were at home, and
‘ that there was no body with you that I
‘ saw ; — she said it was very well, and I
‘ came away, went again to the Count’s,
‘ and waited there ’till his own man told
‘ me that his master had not been in bed
‘ above two hours, and he was sure would
‘ not rise ’till twelve or one o’Clock at
‘ soonest ; said I might leave the letter,
‘ and come about that time for an answer ;
‘ — now as I did not know whether that
‘ would be proper, I thought best to
‘ bring it back.’

Clerimont.

Clerimont. ‘ You did well ; — I shall
‘ see him myself.’

On this the Chairman laid down the letter on the table, and finding Clerimont had no farther commands for him withdrew. — Clerimont then fell into a second pause, but it lasted not long, and he cry’d out,

Clerimont. ‘ Yes, — I will go, — and
‘ perhaps ’tis better that he did not see
‘ my billet ; — he might have found
‘ some way to evade the challenge I sent
‘ him ; but I shall now surprize and force
‘ him to accept it.’

While he was speaking he stepp’d to the closet and brought out a pair of pocket-pistols, with some ammunition to load them with ; — he was just beginning to perform that work when the maid of the house came up and told him a lady desir’d to speak with him. — Clerimont turn’d hastily about, but before he had time to speak his fair guest was in the room. — Charlotte, for it was she herself, was very lovely, though extremely disorder’d both in her dress and looks. — On finding how Clerimont was employ’d she thus accosted him :

Charlotte.

Charlotte. ‘ Oh, Clerimont ! — Clerimont ! — what means that cruel letter
‘ you just now sent me ! — Wherefore
‘ these dreadful preparations ! — tell me,
‘ — this instant tell me, or I shall die
‘ with apprehension !’

Clerimont. ‘ Ah, Charlotte ! never ’till
‘ now unwelcome to my sight, — why
‘ in this fatal moment dost thou set be-
‘ fore me that angelic form, which serves
‘ but to remind me more of the heaven
‘ I have lost !’

Charlotte. ‘ Shock not my soul with
‘ this despair, yet cruelly conceal from
‘ me the cause ! — I have a right to be
‘ made the partner of your griefs as well
‘ as joys ; — speak then, I conjure you,
‘ — let me know all !’

Clerimont. ‘ I cannot !’

Charlotte. ‘ You love me not if you
‘ hide ought from me ! — the worst of
‘ evils could not give me half the pain
‘ as this uncertainty ! — Clear then the
‘ tempest on your brow, — compose your
‘ mind, — remove those murd’rous in-
‘ struments from my sight, and, — Ha !
‘ — what’s here !’

In

In pointing towards the pistols she saw the letter directed to Count Cogdy, which she hastily snatch'd up, and went on, saying,

Charlotte. ‘ A letter to that infamous villain Count Cogdy! — ah, then I guess what has happen'd, — some cursed gaming quarrel! — Clerimont, I must read this letter.’

Clerimont. ‘ You may, — it will in part reveal what my tongue has not the power to utter.’

Ever since my coming into the room I had been extremely impatient to see the contents of this billet, — so while the lady, with a trembling hand, was breaking open the seal, I slipp'd behind her, and read, at the same time she did, these lines:

To Count COGDY.

“ S I R,

“ I Remember that in the midst of my
 “ confusion last night you offer'd to
 “ give me my revenge whenever I should
 “ demand it, which I now do, and ex-
 “ pect you will meet me within an hour in
 “ the

“ the long field behind the bafon in
“ Mary-le-bon, arm’d with fword and
“ piftol ; for it is not with cards or dice
“ we now muft try our fkill : — you
“ have left me nothing but my life to
“ lofe, and I am impatient ’till I ftake it
“ againft yours ; — come without a
“ fecond, for I know no gentleman
“ whom I would demean fo far as to
“ engage him with any of your infamous
“ affociates : — if you refufe to comply
“ with this fummons, which does you
“ too much honour, you may depend
“ that the firft time I fee you, in what
“ place foever it be, I fhall make you an
“ example to all fcoundrels, cheats, and
“ cowards. — So no more at prefent
“ from +

“ CLERIMONT.

“ P. S. Send your answer by the
“ bearer.”

Charlotte. ‘ Then you would fight !
‘ would hazard a life fo precious to me,
‘ only in revenge for being defrauded of
‘ a paultry fum ! — Pray how much
‘ have you loft ?’

Clerimont. ‘ My all.’

Charlotte. ‘ Be more explicit.’

He

He then related to her all the particulars of his misfortune, which, as the reader is already acquainted with, would be needless to repeat. — When he had given over speaking, Charlotte, with the greatest serenity and sweetness, said to him,

Charlotte. ‘ And is this all that has
‘ disconcerted you in so terrible a man-
‘ ner ?’

Clerimont. ‘ What means my Char-
‘ lotte ! — Am I not a beggar, — irre-
‘ coverably a beggar !’

Charlotte. ‘ How can that be, — when
‘ you say the writings will be return’d to
‘ you on payment of a thousand pounds ?
‘ and am not I in possession of eight times
‘ that sum, which, with myself, you are
‘ shortly to be master of ?’

Clerimont. ‘ Plunder my Charlotte !
‘ — no, forbid it honour, justice, love !
‘ — first let me perish !’

Charlotte. ‘ Be not so rash ; — you
‘ must, — you shall accept it.’

Clerimont.

Clerimont. ‘ Charming generous creature! — could I abuse such goodness, I were a villain, meaner, viler far than he that has undone me!’

Charlotte. ‘ Indeed I will not be denied; and if you persist in this obstinacy, will go myself in person, pay the money and redeem the obligation.’

Clerimont. ‘ Oh speak not! — think not of such a thing, unless you wish to see me turn against myself one of those weapons I intended for my adversary!’

Charlotte. ‘ Hold, Clerimont, — forbear to fright me thus! — Just as you spoke a sudden thought started into my head as if there were a way to rid you of this incumbrance without any expence either to yourself or me.’

Clerimont. ‘ How! — by what miracle!’

Charlotte. ‘ The project is not yet quite fashion’d in my brain; — but you must come with me to my lodgings, for I dare not trust you with yourself; — as we go perhaps I may
‘ be

‘ be able to bring my scheme to more
‘ perfection.’

Clerimont. ‘ Oh, Charlotte, thy soft-
‘ ness quite unmans me!’

Charlotte. ‘ No ’tis your own despair
‘ unmans you ; — let me prevail on you
‘ to give only some respite to these hor-
‘ rible ideas.’

Clerimont. ‘ Well, you must be obey’d,
‘ — I will defer the execution of my
‘ intentions ’till another day.’

Charlotte. That’s kind,’

Charlotte seem’d transported at having won thus far upon him, and a coach being call’d they both went into it ; — I listen’d to the directions given where to drive, and eager to know what turn this affair would take, follow’d on foot as fast as I was able.





C H A P. V.

May possibly become the subject of some future Comedy, as there is nothing in the story that can be objected to by the Licence-Office.

AMONG all the indefatigable enquiries I had so long been making after things intended to be kept secret, never had my curiosity met with a greater disappointment than it did at the time I am speaking of ;— I arriv'd at the house where Charlotte lodg'd the very moment that the coach which brought that lady and her lover thither was discharg'd and driving off, and had the mortification to see the door shut when I was not at the distance of above ten paces from it.

Every present minute however flattering me with the hopes that the succeeding ones would be more successful, I waited, tho' I cannot say with much patience, the whole time for the space of about two hours, no one having any occasion, I suppose, either to go out or in ; — at last a friendly baker knock'd at the door, which being open'd, I took the opportunity to
slip

slip in while he deliver'd a loaf of bread to the servant of the house.

I went up stairs, and found the persons I sought for in the dining-room; — but here, alas, I was a second time disappointed, — the grand consultation between them was over before my entrance, and what I heard after I came in could not make me able to form any judgment of the subject they had been upon; — I could only know that something of great moment had been concluded, as the reader will easily perceive by the following short dialogue :

Charlotte. ‘ You cannot imagine how much you have oblig’d me by this ready concession; — but I will not detain you lest the villain should be gone out. — Remember to fix the appointment at seven, or between seven and eight this evening.

Clerimont. ‘ Yes, yes.’

Charlotte. ‘ By that time I shall be able to get every thing in order, — and you will see I shall play my part as well as the best actresses of them all, — do you only take care that no unguarded look or word gives the Count any
‘ room

‘ room to suspect you are less in good
‘ humour than you pretend to be.’

Clerimont. ‘ Fear not, — I shall be
‘ cautious not to spoil so good a plot by
‘ my ill performance.’

Charlotte. ‘ If it succeeds, as I have
‘ not the least doubt but it will, the
‘ story will be a subject of mirth for us
‘ as lasting as our lives.’

Clerimont. ‘ And as lasting a subject
‘ for my admiration of the wit and con-
‘ trivance of my dear, dear Charlotte.’

Charlotte. ‘ Well, well, — defer your
‘ encomiums till a more seasonable oppor-
‘ tunity ; — I long, methinks, to have
‘ this business over, and it is high time
‘ for you to begin to set the first wheel
‘ of our machine in motion.’

Clerimont. ‘ I am going. — Adieu,
‘ my love.’

He accompanied these words with a
very tender and passionate salute, then
left the room ; — tho’ I easily perceived
that Charlotte had somewhat of great im-
portance to transact in this affair, yet as
I could

I could not be in two places at once, I chose to follow Clerimont.

He went directly to the Lodgings of Count Cogdy. and on asking if he were at home was shew'd into a handsome parlour, where, after waiting about a minute and a half, the Count's servant came to him, and said his master had not been long out of bed, and was not quite dress'd, but desir'd he would walk up; — which he did, with his Invisible attendant close behind him.

The Count no sooner saw him enter than he ran to embrace him with a French complaisance, saying at the same time,

Count Cogdy. ‘ Dear Clerimont, I am
‘ glad to see you.’

Clerimont. ‘ My dear Count, a lucky
‘ morning to you. — I behav'd some-
‘ what oddly last night, and could not be
‘ easy 'till I came and ask'd your pardon.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ Oh, sir, you have it,
‘ you have it; — I thought no more of
‘ it; — I know 'tis natural for a gentle-
‘ man to be a little out of humour at first
‘ losing his money.’

Clerimont.

Clerimont. ‘ But I was less excusable
than you imagine ; — for to confess
the truth, I had in Bank-bills upwards
of two thousand pounds lying in my
buroe at home, — so was under no
necessity either of playing upon tick
or of troubling a lawyer to mortgage
the reversion of my estate.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ Is it possible ! — Are
you in earnest !’

Clerimont. ‘ To convince you I am so
you shall have the testimony of your
own eyes ; — see here, Count, — and
here.’

In speaking this he took out of his
pocket-book several bills to the amount
of the sum he had mention’d ; — the
Count stretch’d his eyes broad open, —
look’d at the bills, — seem’d much sur-
prised, and said,

Count Cogdy. ‘ These are Bank-bills,
indeed !’

Clerimont. ‘ Aye, — I can turn them
into ready specie at any banker’s in
town.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ Well, I cannot help
‘ wondering how a man who had two
‘ thousand pounds by him could suffer
‘ himself to be disconcerted at the loss of
‘ one.’

Clerimont. ‘ Hang it, — it was not
‘ the loss of the money that vex’d me;
‘ — but I had got the hyppo, and that
‘ damn’d hyppo makes one affront one’s
‘ best friends.

Count Cogdy. ‘ So then I suppose you
‘ will redeem your mortgage?’

Clerimont. ‘ Time enough for that.
‘ — But now I think on it, you offer’d
‘ me my revenge, and I’ll e’en try my
‘ chance once more.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ As how?’

Clerimont. ‘ Why stake one of these
‘ thousands against my mortgage; — so
‘ either win the horse or lose the saddle.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ With all my heart, —
‘ whenever you please.

Clerimont. ‘ Let it be to-night then.’

Count

Count Cogdy. Agreed. — Will you
‘ stay and dine with me ?’

Clerimont. ‘ I am engag’d with a
‘ young fellow just come to town, and
‘ to the possession of a great estate ; but
‘ I will meet you at night and bring him
‘ with me if I can.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ Do ; — I shall be
‘ glad of his acquaintance.’

Clerimont. ‘ We knew one another in
‘ the country, he will go any where with
‘ me. — But hark’ye, Count, I don’t like
‘ that house we were in last night, —
‘ every thing in it, methinks, has the
‘ face of meaness, poverty, and ill-luck ;
‘ — my young spark is vastly nice, and
‘ will be apt to turn up his nose at it ; —
‘ can’t you think of a more agreeable
‘ place ?’

Count Cogdy. ‘ I know of several ; —
‘ the only reason that makes me chuse to
‘ go thither so often is because I think it
‘ the most safe ; — this cursed act of
‘ parliament has laid such restriction on
‘ us who love play, that it is not every
‘ where we dare venture to indulge our-
‘ selves in that diversion.’

Clerimont. ‘ What objection have you
‘ to Mixum’s, in ***** street?’

Count Cogdy. ‘ ’Tis a good house, and
‘ excellent accommodation. — But don’t
‘ you know that it was search’d three or
‘ four nights ago by a whole posse of
‘ constables?’

Clerimont. ‘ Yes, — but they found
‘ nothing of what they came to look for,
‘ — therefore the more secure at present,
‘ as they will scarce come again in haste.’

Count Cogdy. Well then we will meet
‘ there if you please. — At what hour?’

Clerimont. ‘ Seven, or a little after,
‘ —if it suits you.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ Extremely well; —
‘ then we shall have the whole evening
‘ before us.’

He was about to take his leave, and
had rose up for that purpose, when Tom
Wheadle, Jack Hazard and Coaxum came
all together into the room; — they
seem’d a little surpriz’d at seeing him
there, but saluted him with their usual
familiarity.

Jack

Jack Hazard. ‘ Hah! — dear Clerimont, good morning to you.’

Tom Wheadle. ‘ Now you look like yourself again; — you were quite another man last night.’

Coaxum. ‘ Aye faith, — you must expect to be well roasted.’

Clerimont. ‘ I know I deserve it; but you must defer your sarcasms ’till night; for I am in great haste at present, — so, gentlemen, your servant.’

He was going out of the room with these words; but just as he came to the door he turn’d back and said to Count Cogdy,

Clerimont. ‘ Be sure, Count, not to forget to bring the writings with you.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ No, no, — they have never been out of my pocket since you deliver’d them to me last night.’

There pass’d no more between them, — Clerimont went hastily down stairs, and I gladly would have follow’d him, but Jack Hazard and Tom Wheadle
M 3 happen’d.

happen'd to stand between the door and the corner where I had unluckily posted myself, so that it was impossible for me to remove my quarters without running a very great risque of being felt either by the one or the other.

During the short time I was compell'd to stay I heard the following conversation, which I would not trouble my readers with the repetition of, but to shew what monsters of mankind these degenerate wretches are who get their livelihood by gaming.

Coaxum. 'What does he mean by writings? — sure he is not going to redeem his mortgage!'

Count Cogdy. 'No; but he is going to send a thousand, or 'tis likely two thousand pounds after it. — We have made an appointment to play again to-night.'

Jack Hazard. 'What upon tick?'

Tom Wheadle. 'Phoo, — that is doing of nothing, — the fool has no more estates in reversion to make over.'

Count

Count Cogdy. ‘ You cannot imagine
‘ me so weak as to lose my time with a
‘ fellow that has no money nor effects ;—
‘ no, no, I always go upon good grounds.
‘ —I tell you he has two thousand pounds
‘ in Bank-bills, — he shew’d them to me.’

Jack Hazard. ‘ How did he come
‘ by them ?’

Count Cogdy. ‘ ’Tis no matter to us
‘ how he came by them, we are sure
‘ of making them ours before we sleep.’

Tom Wheadle. ‘ They must certainly
‘ be bills his father has intrusted him
‘ with, to buy stock either for himself
‘ or some of his friends in the country ;
‘ — the young fellow will hang himself
‘ to-morrow, when he reflects on what
‘ he has done.’

Jack Hazard. ‘ Let him hang him-
‘ self when we have got all he has to
‘ lose.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ Aye, aye, — ’tis best
‘ for him and us too that he should put
‘ himself out of the way. — But I can
‘ tell you better news than this, — he
‘ brings a rich young heir with him, one
‘ that

‘ that knows nothing of the world, — a
‘ mere sap, — a greenhorn ; — there
‘ will be fleecing, my boys !’

Just as the Count had done speaking some little noise in the street made them all run to the windows, by which means I got the so-much wish’d for opportunity of escaping from my confinement.

When I found myself at liberty I began to consider not only on what I had seen and heard, but also on what I had not seen nor heard ; — I was still as much in the dark as ever as to Charlotte’s contrivance, and could not keep myself from fretting at the many disappointments I had met with on that account ; — I was doom’d, however, to receive yet one more.

Though I doubted not but when the gamesters met the whole would be laid open to me, yet the time seem’d too tedious for my impatience, — I wanted to know the business of the plot before I saw it acted, and set myself to think on the most probable means to accomplish my designs, — accordingly I went to the lodgings of Charlotte, hoping to find Clerimont there, and discover something farther by the discourse they would have together ; but to my great mortification per-

perceived the rooms quite empty, excepting a little lap-dog lying on a cushion before the fire.

I had now no other resource than to go home to dinner, which I did, and after having got my Tablets made ready to receive a new impresson, diverted myself in the best manner I could 'till the hour arriv'd which enabled me to explore what at present appear'd so mysterious to me.



C H A P. VI.

Will put a final period to the suspense of my readers, in relation to Clerimont and Charlotte.

AS precious a thing as time is, and as much as I always knew the real value of it, the hours, methought, moved slowly on 'till the clock struck seven, and told me that I might now hope for the full eclairsissement of an adventure I had already taken so much fruitless pains to explore.

Pretty secure, however, that I should not lose my labour any more on this oc-

caſion, I went with great glee and jollity of mind to the houſe of Mr. Mixum, — Count Cogdy and his three Associates came preſently after, and were ſhew'd into the beſt room, where I accompanied them. — On their calling for wine Mixum came up with it himſelf to pay his compliments, as not having ſeen them for a conſiderable time, and there enſued ſome diſcourſe concerning the ſearch-warrant that had been granted againſt the houſe, — the manner in which thoſe perſons who were there had made their eſcape from the officers, and ſuch like affairs, which not being at all material to my purpoſe I not regarded, nor ſpread my Tablets to receive.

Within about half an hour Clerimont and his young friend appear'd; — the firſt ſight of the latter extremely ſtruck me, — I thought I had ſomewhere ſeen that face, but when or where, or on what occaſion, I could not preſently recollect, and it was ſome minutes before I knew this ſeeming beau for a real belle; — in ſine, that it was no other than Charlotte herſelf: — ſhe was, indeed, ſo artfully diſguiſed in all points, that a perſon much better acquainted with her features might have been deceived; — her cheeks, which had naturally no more red
in

in them than was necessary to preserve her complexion from the character of a dead paleness, were now, by the help of Carmine or Portugal paste, of a high ruddy colour; — her eye-brows, which were of a fine light brown, were now black as jet; and that sweet and modest air, so becoming in the amiable Charlotte, converted into one all bold and rakish.

Clerimont, with a well-dissembled gaiety in his voice and countenance, presented her to the company, telling them he had taken the liberty to introduce a friend, whose conversation he doubted not but would be agreeable to them. — They received her with the greatest politeness and good breeding; — for I must here observe, that tho' these men, either thro' the calamities of the times or their own mismanagement and ill conduct, were reduced to the wretched course they now took for subsistence, they had all of them been endow'd with a liberal education, and knew how to behave like persons of real honour and fashion whenever they found it suitable to their interest to do so.

The glass went round two or three times while they talk'd only on ordinary matters; but our fair Amazon, being

impatient, I suppose, to put the finishing stroke to the stratagem she had form'd, started up on a sudden, and said,

Charlotte. ‘ Well but, gentlemen, how
‘ are we to pass the evening, — I hope
‘ in somewhat more agreeable than mere
‘ chit-chat? — Clerimont talk’d of play,
‘ and I see you have implements ready.

Count Cogdy. ‘ Sir, we amuse our-
‘ selves that way sometimes, — and if
‘ you chuse it shall be ready to oblige you.

Charlotte. ‘ Oh by all means ; — I
‘ love play extravagantly, — the music
‘ of a dice-box is to me beyond all
‘ Handel’s operas and oratorios ; — here
‘ is more real harmony than in the spheres
‘ themselves, and I could dance eternally
‘ to the sound.’

In speaking these last words she snatch’d up a dice-box, and began to rattle it with all her force ;—then sung this catch :

‘ Away with dull cares,
‘ That bring on grey hairs,
‘ Let them fleet with the day,
‘ And wine, women, and play,
‘ With jovial delights,
‘ Engross all our nights.’

While

While the stranger appear'd thus un-
attentive to every thing, Jack Hazard,
who sat next to Coaxum, whisper'd to
him,

Jack Hazard. ' This is a fine sprightly
' spark ; but I fancy we shall make him
' grow somewhat more grave before we
' have done with him.'

Coaxum. ' I wonder what could in-
' duce Clerimont to bring him, after
' having lost so much among us.'

Jack Hazard. ' Oh, take it for a
' rule, — when a man begins to find him-
' self undone, he is willing to bring all his
' acquaintance into the same condition.'

They had time for no more, — Char-
lotte addressing herself to them all in ge-
neral, said,

Charlotte. ' Come, gentlemen, — which
' of you will engage me, — I have some
' loose pieces in my pocket, which I am
' ready to throw away, if chance should
' so determine?'

Jack Hazard. ' Then, sir, I am your
' man, if you think fit ; — for I know
' the

‘ the Count has made an agreement to
‘ play with Clerimont on a very par-
‘ ticular occasion.’

Charlotte. ‘ Then, sir, I will content
‘ myself a while with being a by-stander.’

Jack Hazard. ‘ You need not, sir,
‘ — you see here are more tables than
‘ one.’

Charlotte. ‘ Aye; but I chuse to bet
‘ on my friend’s side.’

Jack Hazard. ‘ Nay, as you please
‘ for that; — we shall any of us be ready
‘ to take you up.’

The Count and Clerimont being now
in an attitude to play, and the writings
laid down on the one side and a thousand
pound Bank-bill on the other, Charlotte
cry’d out,

Charlotte. ‘ What! — paper against
‘ parchment! — these are the oddest
‘ stakes I ever saw, — Yours, Cleri-
‘ mont, I think, is a thousand pounds?’

Count Cogdy. ‘ I assure, you, sir, that
‘ mine is the full equivalent.’

Charlotte.

Charlotte. ‘ I believe so ; — but before you begin you must give me leave to speak a word or two.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ As many as you please, fir.’

Charlotte. ‘ It is only this : — you must lose, Count.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ Must lose, fir !’

Charlotte. ‘ Aye, fir, must lose.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ That, fir, will happen as fortune shall decree.’

Charlotte. ‘ Sir, I stand in the place of fortune, and tell you that you must lose those writings to Clerimont.’

Jack Hazard. ‘ What means all this !’

Count Cogdy. ‘ I do not understand you, fir.’

Charlotte. ‘ I will speak plainer ; — your false dice will be of no service to you at this time ; — you must willingly return to Clerimont that deed of reversion, which you drew him in to sign
‘ a

‘ as a security for money you had basely
‘ cheated him of ; — I say willingly, —
‘ for if you do not I am come prepar’d
‘ with means to force you to it.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ Sir, I scorn both your
‘ words and threats ; — I never cheated
‘ any man, nor will part with what
‘ chance has bestow’d upon me.’

Jack Hazard. ‘ ‘Sdeath, — shall we
‘ be bullied by such a prig !’

Charlotte. ‘ None of your big words,
‘ — I have that will silence you ; — see
‘ here ; — the copy of a warrant from
‘ Justice Ferrit, to apprehend and bring
‘ before him the bodies of George Van
‘ Hellmock, alias Count Cogdy, —
‘ John Hazard, — Thomas Wheadle, —
‘ and William Coaxum ; — the original
‘ of this is in the hands of persons who,
‘ on the least stamp of my foot, will
‘ come up and put it in execution.’

The gamesters now look’d on each other with all the marks of consternation ; but before they had time to make any reply to what Charlotte had said, Mixum, all pale and trembling, came running into the room, and said,

Mixum.

Mixum. ‘ Oh, gentlemen, — we are
‘ all undone ! — three or four constables
‘ are at the door, — one of my drawers
‘ saw them as he went out to carry a pint
‘ of wine to a neighbour’s house ; and
‘ there is a young man below too, who I
‘ dare say is a spy, for he does not stay
‘ in the room, but walks backwards and
‘ forwards in the entry, and looks at
‘ every body as they pass by ; — so that
‘ there is no escaping either one way or
‘ other.’

Charlotte. ‘ He tells you truth ; —
‘ the person he speaks of is planted there
‘ by me, and on my giving the signal
‘ will call in his mirmidons ; — so that
‘ you have nothing for it but to deliver
‘ the writings quietly to Clerimont ; — if
‘ you do this I will instantly go down
‘ and send away the officers, under pre-
‘ tence that the information was wrong,
‘ and that no gamesters are here.’

Count Cogdy. Confusion ! — What is
‘ to be done !’

Jack Hazard. ‘ ‘Sdeath, Count ! —
‘ do not part with the writings ! — we’ll
‘ fight our way through them !’

Charlotte.

Charlotte. ' Nay then I give the
' signal.'

She advanced towards the door with these words ; but Mixum threw himself between, and with the most pity-moving gesture said,

Mixum. ' Hold, sir, I beseech you!
' — consider I never offended you! —
' do not ruin me and my house for ever !'

Clerimont. ' Oh, you will be provided
' with lodgings in Bridewell, and fare no
' worse than these worthy gentlemen
' here, your customers.

Count Cogdy. ' Well, I did not think
' mr. Clerimont would have turn'd in-
' former.'

Clerimont. ' Nor did I think I had
' associated myself with common sharpers,
' cheats and villains, 'till last night con-
' vinced me of it.'

Charlotte. ' These altercations are only
' loss of time; — the officers will be im-
' patient ; — speak, Count, — resolve at
' once ; — Shall I dismiss, or call them
' to the exercise of their function.

Count

Count Cogdy. ‘ Hell and the devil ! —
‘ What say you, gentlemen ? ’

Tom Wheadle. ‘ E’en give up the
‘ writings, and the devil go with them.

Coaxum. ‘ Aye, aye, give them up.

Jack Hazard. ‘ Since there is no re-
‘ medy I give my vote.

Count Cogdy. ‘ Nothing vexes me so
‘ much as to be thus outwitted, gull’d,
‘ trick’d. — There, mr. Clerimont, take
‘ back your mortgage ; — but I must tell
‘ you, sir, that you have not acted like
‘ a gentleman.’

Clerimont. ‘ I threw off the gentle-
‘ man when I condescended to play in
‘ such company ; — a gamester is the
‘ lowest and most infamous of all cha-
‘ racters ; nay the most dangerous too ;
‘ worse even than a highway robber, —
‘ he takes but part, — you plunder, with-
‘ out remorse, the whole fortune of him
‘ whom you decoy into your snares ; —
‘ nor can there be any excuse from your
‘ necessities, while we have so numerous
‘ a fleet and standing army, which are
‘ conti-

‘ continually wanting recruits, and refuse none who have health and vigour.’

Count Cogdy. ‘ Sir, you have got what you wanted, — so pray keep your remonstrances to yourself.’

Charlotte. Aye, aye, — advice is lost on such harden’d profligates. — Come, let us go.

Clerimont. I attend you.’

Neither Clerimont nor his fair champion said any more, but went directly out of the room ; — a volley of curses from the mouths of all these miscreants pursued their steps. — I had no inclination to stay where I was ; but just as I pass’d the door I heard Jack Hazard, who was the most violent of the four, say to his companions,

Jack Hazard. ‘ It is that saucy pert young Coxcomb that has spirited up Clerimont to do all this ; but if ever I meet him in a convenient place, I’ll pink him, — I’ll make a loop-hole in his flesh big enough to let out twenty such puny souls.’

I could not forbear laughing within myself at this menace, which, though it
threw’d

shew'd the villainous disposition of the wretch who spoke it, I knew was impossible ever to reach the person it was levell'd against.

The amiable and witty Charlotte kept her promise, and on her coming down stairs gave orders to the young man who waited her commands to send away the constables, — after which she took coach with her lover, attended with as many blessings and good wishes from Mixum as she had been loaded with curses from those above.

As I could expect no more from this adventure than the retributions of Clerimont to his beloved Charlotte for the happy deliverance she had given him from destruction, and which I could easily conceive without hearing, I return'd to my own apartment, in order to get my Tablets made ready for the acquisition of some new discovery.

I must not however, take leave of these lovers without letting the public know that a marriage between them, which had some time before been agreed upon, is now consummated, and that Clerimont, sincerely touch'd with the danger he has escaped, has made a firm resolution never

to enter their churches; — if this kind
of matter ever were any one person to
and the things the pains I have taken to
until it will be well rewarded.

CHAP. VII.

*... has initiated chiefly
... of the serious part
... and is stout enough
... over by the more
... .*

*... one among the num-
... to a good old lady,
... the enjoyment of all the*

It was at her house I first saw Mr. Wary, a gentleman of an ancient family; an affluent fortune, and an extreme good character; but has a certain peculiarity of humour which deprives him of some part of that respect he could not fail otherwise of attracting from as many as know him.

Whether it be owing to an over diffidence of himself, or of others, it is hard to determine; that it seems to me that there is a mixture of both in his composition; for he goes not about the most minute and insignificant affair in life, even to the buying a suit of cloaths, without consulting the whole round of his acquaintance, never depending on his own judgment, or on the opinion of any one friend whatsoever; but constantly adhering to this maxim: — that in a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom.

His age at this time does not exceed forty, he has been a widower upwards of twelve years, yet never had the courage to venture on a second marriage, because he could find no woman whom every body approv'd of: — he is the father of one son, a very promising youth, now about thirteen, of whom he is extremely
tender,

tender, and so very careful of his education that he would never trust him at any public school, and has him instructed at home in every thing he thinks necessary he should learn ; but it frequently happens that a great deal of time is lost in providing tutors who seem to him every way qualified for the trust to be reposed in them.

There was nothing in the character of this gentleman that excited my curiosity to know any thing farther of him than what I did ; — indeed I could hope to make no discoveries worthy of my Invisible inspection, in the family of a person who had neither wife nor daughter, was not distinguish'd for any particular vice or virtue, never intermeddled in public affairs, saw little company, and lived in a very retir'd manner ; — therefore I never had a thought of visiting him.

But it often happens that we are sway'd by an unaccountable impulse to do things which have no meaning in them, nor afford the least prospect either of pleasure or advantage ; and it was in one of these sudden starts that I found myself hurried into his house, seeing the door open as I casually pass'd through the street where he lives.

I found

I found him sitting in an easy-chair in his back parlour, with a letter in his hand; but having just finish'd the reading of it as I came in, I had not the opportunity at that time of seeing what it contain'd; — a moment after a servant enter'd, and told him Mr. Seewell was come to wait on him, — on which he order'd him to be introduced, and as soon as he was so, said to him,

Mr. Wary. ‘ Oh, my good friend Mr. Seewell, — you are the most welcome man alive; — I was just wishing for you.’

Mr. Seewell. ‘ I am glad then I came so opportunely. — But pray on what account am I so happy?’

Mr. Wary. ‘ Sit down and I will tell you. — You must know I am desirous my son should have a little insight of some branches of the mathematics, and accordingly have been laying out a good while for a proper person to instruct him; — at last I heard of one who they say has very great abilities, and is of a sober character.’

Mr. Seewell. ‘ That was lucky.’

Mr. Wary. ‘ Aye, but you have not heard all. — The very next day after I had agreed with him, happening to mention his name to an acquaintance of mine, I was inform’d that he is a Papist, — born and bred a Papist, — on which I presently sent to desire the person who recommended him, to let him know he need not give himself the trouble to come to my house, and also to give him the reasons that induced me to forbid him; for, *Mr. Seewell*, I would rather have my son kept in ignorance all his life, than have his principles tainted with Popery and Jacobitism.’

Mr. Seewell. ‘ You are very much in the right.’

Mr. Wary. ‘ Aye, I think I am: — yet for all that I am strangely puzzled, and divided, as it were, in my thoughts; — he sent me a letter this morning, — you shall read it, and then give me your advice what to do.’

Mr. Seewell. ‘ The best I can you may command.’

Mr.

Mr. Wary then put the letter into his hands, which I read at the same time he did, and found it contained these lines :

TO LEMUEL WARY, Esq;

“ S I R,

“ I CANNOT forbear being extremely
“ shock’d at the disappointment I
“ have received ; but am much more
“ surpris’d at the reasons, you assign for
“ thinking me unworthy the honour of
“ instructing your son in a science which
“ has not the least connexion either with
“ religion or politics. — I shall never be
“ ashamed to own myself a member of
“ the Church of Rome ; but am as far
“ from being a Jacobite as you or any
“ one can be, and think it easy to con-
“ vince you, that my being the one is
“ a sufficient proof that I cannot be the
“ other.

“ I know that weak minds are strange-
“ ly carry’d away by mere words ; but
“ they cannot long have any influence
“ with persons of understanding ; — you,
“ sir, need but give yourself the trouble
“ of a few moments consideration to see
“ plainly how utterly inconsistent it is
“ with the interest of a true Roman Ca-
“ tholic

“ tholic to wish the Pretender, or any of
“ his race, should ever be seated on the
“ throne of these kingdoms.

“ What, sir, could we hope for from
“ a person who could not favour us, if
“ he were so inclined, without endan-
“ gering himself; — a person, who, tho’
“ bred in the principles of the Church of
“ Rome, and still professes to adhere to
“ them, yet put his eldest son under the
“ tuition of three the most zealous ene-
“ mies of our religion? — I need not
“ tell you I mean the lords Dunbar and
“ Inverness, both of the Kirk of Scot-
“ land, and Lascelles, an eminent divine
“ of the Church of England. — What,
“ I say, could we expect, were a rev-
“ olution ever to happen in favour of that
“ family, which Heaven forbid, but to
“ be deprived of all those privileges the
“ goodness of his present Majesty per-
“ mits us the enjoyment of, and to be
“ discountenanced even more than the
“ worst of all those numerous sectaries
“ which divide the nation?

“ Please, sir, to cast a short retrospect
“ on the transactions of the late rebellion;
“ — Were not the heads of Clans, and
“ those of the Nobles who listed under
“ the banner of the young Pretender in
“ Scotland

“ Scotland all protestants, the duke of
“ Perth excepted? — Were not those
“ few whom he pick’d up in England
“ Protestants, sons of the Reformation,
“ and most of them of the establish’d
“ Church. — Those of our persuasion
“ neither abetted or any way assisted the
“ Adventurer’s undertaking; and sure if
“ our hearts had been affected to his
“ cause, our hands would not have been
“ inactive, our number is not so incon-
“ siderable as not to have done some
“ service; and then, if ever, was the
“ time to have shew’d ourselves; — but
“ our peaceful behaviour at that time
“ ought, methinks, to be a sufficient
“ testimony to the whole world how little
“ we deserve to be stigmatised with the
“ appellation of Jacobites.

“ Thus much, sir, in relation to my
“ politics; — and as to the other part
“ of your objection, — I do assure you,
“ upon the word of a christian and a
“ man of honour, that I shall never
“ mingle matters of religion in my dis-
“ course with any of my pupils.

“ If, after this declaration, you think
“ me worthy of attending your son, the
“ best of my endeavours shall not be
“ wanting to instruct him in the science

“ I profess to teach, and in all other
“ things to prove that I am,

“ With the greatest respect,

“ S I R,

“ Your most obedient, and

“ Humble servant,

“ P. NEUTER.

Mr. Wary. “ Well, sir, what do you
“ think of this epistle? — Pray give me
“ your opinion candidly.”

Mr. Seewell. “ Why really, mr. Wary,
“ there are some things in it which can-
“ not be denied; yet I would not advise
“ you, by any means, to put him over
“ your son.”

Mr. Wary. “ Not if I am convinced
“ he is no Jacobite?”

Mr. Seewell. “ What then; — you
“ are convinced he is a Papist, and being
“ such, cannot cordially wish well to
“ any who are Protestants; — the very
“ principles of his uncharitable religion
“ forbid that he should do so; — the
“ Church of Rome looks on what they
“ call

‘ call the Northern Heresy in a worse light than Paganism ; — and though, as he says, they may not desire a change of government in favour of the Pretender, yet they would doubtless be glad to see, not only these kingdoms, but all those where the Reformation has taken place, involved in blood, anarchy and confusion.’

Mr. Wary. ‘ It is very true, indeed, Mr. Seewell ; — they have always shewn a spirit of persecution in them.’

Mr. Seewell. ‘ Hating us as they do, it would be the greatest weakness to imagine they would sincerely contribute any thing towards our making a shining figure in the world ; and cannot therefore be looked upon as duly qualified, however able they may be in other respects, for Tutors or Preceptors to our youth.’

Mr. Wary. ‘ No, no, — I will have nothing to do with him ; — I will not be cajoled by his fair pretences.’

Here they broke off all farther speech on this subject ; and as I found they were beginning to enter on matters which did not seem to me of any consequence, I left

them, and took the first opportunity of going out of the house.

I shall not trouble my readers with any animadversions either on mr. Neuter's letter or the conversation which ensued upon it, but leave every one to judge as he shall think most reasonable.

~~*****~~

C H A P. VIII.

Contains such a sort of method for the cure of an amorous constitution, as perhaps there are more ladies than one who will not think themselves obliged to the Author for revealing.

THERE is no resentment so implacable and lasting as that which is occasioned by love converted into hatred by ill treatment; and by the more slow degree this passion rises in our minds, the more virulent it becomes after having once gain'd possession.

Cleanthes, a gentleman of a good family, great worth, and opulent estate, loved to the most romantic excess a young woman, who, excepting a tolerable share

share of beauty, had no one real charm to recommend her to a person of his character : — she was meanly born, more meanly educated ; — she was silly, vain, capricious, and of a reputation not quite unblemish'd.

Yet did he no sooner become acquainted with her than he broke off the addresses he had long made to a lady of great merit and fortune ; and in a short time, contrary to all the remonstrances and dissuasions of his friends, publickly married her.

Being a husband made him not less a lover ; — his obsequiousness is not to be parallel'd ; — his whole study was to please her, every succeeding day brought with it an addition of his dotage of her ; — he was always happy in her presence, never easy in her absence ; — and, to use Shakespear's expression,

“ Appetite increas'd by what it fed on.”

Aglaura, for so she is call'd, had so little sense of the happiness she enjoy'd, or affection or gratitude for the man who bestow'd it on her, that she presently gave the greatest loose to her too amorous inclinations ; — thought of nothing

but engaging new admirers, and to that end made advances, which would be shocking to repeat, to every pretty fellow she came in company with, even before the face of her much injur'd husband, who, blinded by his passion, for a long time look'd on all she did as proceeding only from the too great vivacity of her temper.

Had she observ'd the least degree of circumspection in her amours, he would scarce ever have believ'd there was a possibility of her being guilty; — but she took no pains to deceive him, and tho' she knew he lived but in her sight, was scarce ever at home; and, through the want either of artifice or complaisance, gave herself not the pains of making any excuses for her continual rambles.

This made him at last fall into a deep melancholy; yet still he loved her, and could not for a great while prevail on himself to lay any restrictions on her conduct: — all who had any knowledge of the manner in which they lived together, while they highly condemn'd her treatment of him, were ready to despise his lenity and forbearance.

At length, however, the tables were entirely turn'd; — from having been at first the most fond, and afterwards the passive husband, he became, all at once, the most cruel and tyrannic; — he took from her all the jewels and other ornaments he had bestow'd upon her, lock'd her into a garret, suffer'd no one to come near her, except a servant who carried food to her of the coarsest kind, and no more than would just suffice to keep her from perishing.

It cannot be supposed but that so strange an alteration in the behaviour of the late fond, and indeed madly doating Cleanthes, must become the subject of much conversation in town. — A lady of my acquaintance, who is reckon'd to have a pretty taste for poetry, shew'd me a few lines she had wrote extempore on the occasion, which I think may not be disagreeable to my readers. — They are as follow:

*On the present Cruelty of CLEANTHES, to
a WIFE whom he once loved to as great
an excess.*

‘ **A**S tapers languish at th’ approach
‘ of day,
‘ And, by degrees, melt slow their shine
‘ away,
‘ Awhile they glimmer with contracted
‘ fires,
‘ Trembling, unable to relax their spires;
‘ But when the sun’s broad eye is open’d
‘ wide,
‘ And beams, thick flashing, shoot on
‘ ev’ry side,
‘ No more their emulative force they
‘ try,
‘ But, struck with radiance, sink at once
‘ and die.

‘ So in his heart love long maintain’d
‘ its place,
‘ Till full conviction glar’d him in the
‘ face,
‘ And forc’d th’ unwilling softness to
‘ give way
‘ To hate, and rage, and fierce resent-
‘ ment’s sway.

‘ Un-

- ‘ Unhappy man !
- ‘ What wild extremes hurry thy head-
‘ strong will ?
- ‘ What boist’rous passions thy vex’d
‘ bosom fill ?
- ‘ To reason’s sacred rules a truant
‘ still.
- ‘ Whoe’er he be the golden mean fore-
‘ goes,
- ‘ Exchanges hop’d-for joys for certain
‘ woes.’

By all the discourses I heard wherever I went, concerning this affair, I found, that though scarce any one pitied Aglaura, yet almost every one condemn’d Cleanthes, no less for his present ill usage of her, than they had formerly done for the extravagance of his love.

- ‘ It is beneath the dignity of a man of
‘ sense or honour, — said one, — to treat
‘ thus inhumanly a woman, how un-
‘ worthy soever she may be, who is yet his
‘ wife.’

- ‘ If she is really guilty of having
‘ wrong’d his bed, — cry’d another, —
‘ as indeed there is not the least room to
‘ doubt, why, on the discovery of her
‘ crime, did he not turn her out, o
‘ doors

‘ doors ? — why did he not sue for a divorce ?’

It is certain that his way of proceeding with her appear’d so odd, that many people were apt to think that her present sufferings were owing rather to a change in his own humour, than to any detection he had made of her falshood : — others, on the contrary, imagin’d he still lov’d her, and that after he had punish’d her a while he would forgive all that was past, and again take her to his bosom.

Various, and widely different conjectures were form’d in relation both to the husband and the wife, at all which I laugh’d in my sleeve, believing, — I dare say with a good deal of reason, — that no one person in the whole world, excepting the Invisible Spy, was at the bottom of this secret ; — the means by which I became master of it I shall now acquaint my readers with.

I supp’d one night at the house of an intimate friend at Kensington, and happening to stay there more late than it was judg’d safe for me to go home alone, was very much press’d by him to take a servant with me ; — but I, knowing I had
had

had a better security about me than any servant could be, rejected his offer, and when I was got a little way from the house girded on my Belt of Invisibility, and walk'd on at my leisure, equally free from danger as from fear.

Foolhardy, as I perhaps was look'd upon for venturing alone through Hyde-Park, on account of some ill accidents had lately happen'd there: — it was not above nine o'clock when I left Kensington, — an hour which I thought too late to make any other visits, and too soon to shut myself up in my own apartment; — therefore, as the night was pleasant and pretty warm, the season consider'd, I saunter'd towards the Serpentine-River; revolving in my mind some part of the conversation I had just been entertain'd with.

Many minutes had not elapsed in this employment before I was disturbed from it by the murmurs of some human voices which I heard at a small distance; — my natural curiosity making me draw nearer to the place whence the sound proceeded, I easily distinguish'd a man of a good appearance holding by the arm a genteel well-dress'd woman, whom he seem'd rather to drag than lead towards the banks
of

of the river ; — as these persons were no other than Cleanthes and Aglaura, I shall insert what was said by each of them under their respective names.

Aglaura. ‘ Indeed this is mighty foolish, Cleanthes ; — I cannot imagine what should make you bring me hither at this time of night.’

Cleanthes. ‘ Have a little patience, you shall know presently.’

Aglaura. ‘ I will not stir one step farther ’till you tell me.’

Cleanthes. ‘ Then you must be forced. — Come, come, — no resistance.’

Aglaura. ‘ How do I know but you may have a design to murder me !’

Cleanthes. ‘ No, I have too much regard for myself to go such lengths. — Perhaps, indeed, if you provoke me by your obstinacy, I may chance to spoil that face you are so vain upon. — I can use my sword to other purposes than killing.’

With these words he drew his sword, the point of which glittering in her eyes
as

as he pull'd her roughly forwards, frightened her so much that she presently scream'd out,

Aglaura. Ah! — help! help! — Is there no body near to save me!

Cleantes. ' Be hush'd; — a second outcry and your nose goes off.'

Aglaura. ' Oh lud! — Oh lud! — Oh lud! — How can you be so barbarous to use me thus only for a little innocent frolic!'

Cleantes. ' Shameless wretch! — Can you call it an innocent frolic to come to the door of a public coffee-house and send in for your gallant! — Had I not happen'd to be there, — had not these eyes and ears been witnesses of your guilt, you might, and doubtless would have deny'd, forsworn it.'

Aglaura. ' I meant no harm; — I only wanted to rally him a little about something I had heard concerning him.'

Cleantes. ' Infamous abandon'd prostitute, — have I not an hundred times insisted on your never speaking to that fellow more, nor to that other coxcomb,
' Le

‘ Le Brune, yet had you not the front
 ‘ to run arm in arm this morning with
 ‘ the one into the Vineyard, in the face of
 ‘ the whole Mall, and at night came in
 ‘ pursuit of the other! — But this is no
 ‘ time for expostulation, — I am con-
 ‘ vinced of the injury you have done me,
 ‘ and will punish you accordingly. —
 ‘ Come, strip.’

Aglaura. ‘ Oh lud! — what do you
 ‘ mean!’

Cleanthes. ‘ You have a raging fever
 ‘ in your blood, which I have bethought
 ‘ me of a more effectual method to cure
 ‘ than all the doctors in Europe could
 ‘ prescribe; — therefore strip, I say.’

While he was speaking he began to
 tear off part of her upper garments; —
 — she struggled, — fell on her knees, —
 wept, — pray’d, — beseech’d him to for-
 give her, — vow’d never to offend him
 more; — but all in vain, he remain’d
 inexorable to her entreaties, — remorse-
 less to her griefs, and forced her, with
 his sword pointed to her breast, to pluck
 off every thing, ’till she was reduced to
 her birth-day suit, and lay at his feet
 quite naked, and trembling for the issue
 of her fate.

The

The vindictive husband then snatch'd her rudely from the earth, and taking fast hold of both her shoulders plung'd her into the river, keeping her under water 'till she was almost strangled, then suffer'd her to raise her head; but it was only in order to renew her torments, for the moment he found she had recover'd breath he press'd her down again, — so that without being drown'd she felt all the agonies which that kind of death inflicts.

Weary'd, I believe, tho' not glutted, as I afterwards found, with the exercise of his revenge, he threw her on the grass, where she lay for some minutes without motion, and in all appearance without breath; — never had life so much the shew of death; yet was it chiefly fear that had so much overcome her; for she lifted herself up with more agility than I could have imagin'd, on hearing him say,

Cleantes. 'The operation is now over, — you may put on your cloaths and prepare for going home.'

As much as the fright had seiz'd her spirits, as the cold had benumb'd her limbs, these words enabled her to rear herself

herself and begin to gather up her habiliments, part of which lying scatter'd at some distance, Cleanthes, with a contemptuous air, kick'd nearer to her. — She wrapp'd up her shivering body as well as she could, for I cannot call it dressing, and as soon as she had done, Cleanthes bid her follow him, — which she did, tho' ready to sink at every step she took.

I kept pretty near to them, and found that the coach which brought them thither had, by his orders, waited their return at the Park wall; — he went hastily into it, but poor Aglaura was too feeble to reach the foot-stool without the assistance of the coachman: — they drove away, and I went home so much astonish'd at what I had seen, that I had not power to make any reflections on it for some time.

My mind however, grew more settled by a night's repose, and, impatient to know how they would behave to each other after what had pass'd between them, I went directly to their house; — Cleanthes was up alone and at breakfast. — Soon after my entrance a servant-maid came in and said to him,

Maid.

Maid. ‘ Sir, my lady has call’d for a
* dish of chocolate, but I would not pre-
* sume to carry any up without your per-
* mission, as your orders last night were
* so positive that she should be fed with
* nothing but watergruel and dry bread.’

Cleanthes. ‘ Why then do you trouble
* me now? — Do you think I gave orders
* at night to retract them in the morning?
* — Be gone, and let me hear no more
* of it.’

The maid withdrew, and I follow’d
her to the room where Aglaura was now
lodg’d, which was indeed a wretched
garret; — she was in bed weeping, but
on the maid’s repeating the commands of
Cleanthes, her tears flow’d faster, — she
wrung her hands, — she beat her breast;
— but it is more easy for the reader to
conceive her despair than for me to ex-
press it, — so I shall only say the spectacle
was too moving, — I could not bear it,
but left the house immediately, and re-
turn’d not thither ’till after eight or ten
days, in which time the town was ap-
priz’d of the suffering of Aglaura, ex-
cept the ducking part, and spoke of the
strange change of Cleanthes in the manner
I have already related.

On my next visit Cleanthes had with him an elderly lady, who I afterwards perceived was his aunt ; — she came, it seems, to persuade him to treat his transgressing wife with less severity ; — the discourse between them was as follows :

Lady. ‘ I am as sensible as you can be of the faults of Aglaura, and the dishonour she has brought upon you ; yet, my dear nephew, you demean yourself by using in this fashion a woman who, though unworthy, is still your wife.

Cleanthes. ‘ Madam, I can no longer think of her as a wife, nor even as a woman ; but as a dog that had bit me ! — a serpent that had stung me !’

Lady. ‘ Put her then out of your house.’

Cleanthes. ‘ That would be giving her an opportunity of disgracing me more by her prostitutions ; — no, since I have not proofs for a divorce I will confine her here till I can send her for ever from my sight : — I have already wrote to a tenant of mine in the farthest part of Yorkshire, — he will be in town

town next week, and take her with him to his house.'

The good lady took her leave, after having heard and approv'd this resolution, which, as I have been since inform'd, he put in execution as he had said.

THE CONCLUSION.

HERE, O reader! a total stop is put to my endeavours to oblige thee! — nature has baffled all my vain precautions to preserve my little virgin in her native purity: — the woman whom I appointed to attend her, accidentally dropp'd from her pocket the picture of a very lovely youth; — the girl, unfortunately for me, as well as for thee, took it up, was charm'd with it; — sleep renew'd the pleasing image in her mind; and added life and motion to it; — she dream'd that it was her bedfellow, — that it kiss'd, embraced, and lay within her arms; — so that in spite of all my cares, and without ever having seen the substance of a man, she has received an idea of the difference of sexes.

Her

Her pretty fingers no longer have the power to cleanse my Tablets, — the dialogue last repeated remains still unpunged, and leaves no room for any future impression. — How grievous a disappointment to me! — how terrible a mortification! — but we must all submit to destiny, which compels me now to bid thee eternally adieu! — adieu! — adieu!

F I N I S.



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